

DAA 2331/ WEST AFRICAN DANCE

Fall 2016
M, W Periods 9-10 (4-6 pm)
Constans Dance Studio G-06
Gen Ed H/1-D (2 Credits)

Mr. Mohamed DaCosta
Ph: 273-0521
Office Hours by Appointment
E-mail: dacosta1@ufl.edu

Syllabi are posted at CFA website under: *Student & Parents*: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201608/all/theadanc.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an immersion into performance as a way of knowing, understanding, and experiencing culture, emphasizing cultural traditions, community outreach and diversity. The class works through artistic process, practice, performance, and related activities, using dance, theatre, and music work rooted in West African tradition and contemporary West African aesthetics. The focus of the class will be the traditional dance and music. Prerequisites include audition and consent of the instructor. Class may be repeated with of change of content up to a maximum of 6 credits.

OBJECTIVES

- To cross the boundaries of music, dance, theatre, and culture in the creation of theatrical work exploring cultural traditions.
- To broaden your understanding of the social significance of performance in today's society through involvement in community outreach.
- To strive for an ever-growing proficiency in the repertory presented, emphasizing professionalism and performance.
- To search for an internal discipline, motivating you to challenge your limits, both physical and psychological, and to motivate others to do the same.
- To open yourself to creating a community of artists and audience members dedicated to cultural sharing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Participation as indicated in classes, outside class events, and outreach activities.
- Participation in assigned master classes/events.
- Participation in assigned costume fittings and costume building assistance.
- **FULL** participation as indicated in dance, tech, and dress rehearsals.

GLOBAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- **Attendance is MANDATORY (Including Dress rehearsals)!**
- You must be present for all scheduled classes, plus required concerts, auditions, and/or events.
- **Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of points.**
- There are NO makeup classes. Additional points for excused absences can be earned as stipulated below.
- It is your responsibility to know your schedule.
- Check your UF email & the dance studio bulletin boards.
- **INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.** If approved, CFA Incomplete Contract must be signed by the Director, Instructor, and Student.

Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
- There will be a 5 minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.
- 2 tardies for dance/tech rehearsals equal 1 unexcused absence.

Make-up Policy

- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
 - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
 - Majors: Additional hours for Community in Motion

Resources

- <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmary)
- <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
- If unable to dance, with instructor permission, you may ‘actively’ observe one time for full credit.
- You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class. Check with instructor for instructions.
- You may not receive credit for attendance if you arrive ten minutes into the scheduled class time.
- You may not use this time for napping or “study hall,” otherwise it will be considered an absence.
- Injury/Illness: Please refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SOTD 2016-2017 Handbook.
- UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up (travel time not included). Student is still responsible for material covered during their absence.
- All make-up assignments for excused absences to be completed **by the last day of classes this semester.**

DRESS

Appropriate West African dance clothing, which allows the line of the body to be seen, is required in class and rehearsal. Lapas are required to purchase for \$20, since there is no required text for the class. Please note that if you do not wear a lapa in class for 4 class days, it can result in a lowering of your final grade. Please pay particular attention to maintaining good personal hygiene.

EVALUATION

1. You will be evaluated on how fully you realize the objectives (page one) of the course.
2. Your successes in completion of all class requirements.
3. Your professional demeanor.
4. Class attendance and punctuality.

Final grades determined by points:

Class participation/Attendance	300 points
Event Attendance	(2) 100 points (50 each)
Dance/Tech/Extra Rehearsal Participation/Attendance	100 points
Total Possible Points:	500 points
A	480-500
A-	459-479
B+	438-458
B	417-437
B-	396-416

C+	375-395
C	354-374
C-	333-353
D	312-332
D-	291-311
F	000-310

Unless documented by a physician, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 25-point deduction in your **final grade**. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. *Please see me, or e-mail me with any course related questions or concerns that may arise for you during the semester.*

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean's Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

EVENTS

You are required to see two shows (the BFA Showcase and 1 other show of your choice). The other shows listed below are not required but will count as extra credit. However, you must show proof by bringing in a ticket stub or a program signed by a door usher working that night! You can purchase your tickets well in advance. Print your name and UFID on your ticket stub. Should you have a scheduling conflict that will prevent your from attending an assigned event, it is your responsibility to inform Professor DaCosta as soon as possible before the event in order for a substitute event to be assigned. This course follows University Honor Code.

PERFORMANCES/ASSIGNMENT for FALL 2016

STAGE KISS

Co-produced with the Hippodrome Theatre
 Written by Sarah Ruhl
 Directed by Tim Altmeyer
 Hippodrome Theatre
 Aug 31-Sept.25

THE NEW MRS. TESMAN

A new interpretation of Hedda Gabler
 Written by Henrik Ibsen
 Adapted and Directed by Mikell Pinkney
 Black Box Theatre
 McGuire Pavilion
 Sept. 23-Oct.2

Spring Awakening

Composed by Duncan Shiek
 Lyrics and Libretto by Steven Sater
 Directed by Tony Mata
 Music Direction by Tony Offerie
 Constans Theatre
 Oct.28-Nov. 6

BFA FALL DANCE SHOWCASE

Coordinated by Ric Rose
 G-6 Studio, McGuire Pavilion

Nov. 2-6

AGBEDIDI: A FUSION OF TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Directed by Mohamed Dacosta &
Trent D. Williams, Jr.
Constans Theatre
Dec.2-4

UF Policies:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> - UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (source: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

Getting Help:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

General Information

Student Injury and Illness Policy:

The Dance Area of SoTD believes that dance student's physical and mental well-being is paramount to success in all arenas of their dance training, from class to the stage. In the case of injury, fostering a productive and holistic response insures a speedy and effective recovery.

If the dance student becomes ill or injured to the degree that they cannot attend and participate in dance classes, SoTD sponsored rehearsals, or performances, the 5 steps of the dance student injury and illness policy are to be followed:

1. The student is required to see a health care professional immediately.
2. If the illness or injury prevents the student from participation in dance class, rehearsal, or performance, the student is to request documentation from the health care professional that explicitly projects the duration of the injury, and/or the amount and type of activity recommended for the welfare of the student.
3. Following the appointment with the health care professional, the student is required to bring medical recommendations and related documentation to the attention of his or her instructor(s), choreographer(s), or director(s) as the basis for discussion.
4. Unless otherwise medically advised, the student is prohibited from active participation in all related UF dance activities, classes, events, performances, etc. The student may not personally select one activity as having a higher priority over another. The student is not to dance in any events, activities, performances or rehearsals if the student is not in dance class. If the infirmity culminates in a medical withdrawal, this is

also a withdrawal from all performance related activities.

5. The student is never allowed to sacrifice classroom participation for the demands of a performance. The student will not be allowed to participate in a performance if they miss dance class due to an injury. The student is expected to follow the student injury and illness policy even if performances take place beyond the scope of SoTD, as with another UF, professional, or community performing group, etc.

If involved in a SoTD produced production (with or without credit), there is required attendance at the production's Strike (as stated in the current SoTD Production Handbook):

Strike

- Strike is the restoring of the stage to its original condition. This mainly consists of the breakdown of technical components of the production.
 - Strike typically takes place immediately following the final performance of the production.
 - Strike is run by the Technical Director or Scenic Studio Supervisor.
 - Safety is of the utmost importance! Proper footwear and clothing must be worn. Additional Safety Equipment may be required depending on the task.
 - The Strike requires the presence of all undergraduate performers involved in the show and crew, Props Master, Master Electrician, and Technical Director or Scenic Studio Supervisor.
 - Only the Technical Director, Master Electrician and Costume Supervisor can release anyone from Strike.
 - Additionally, all cast members and crew must sign out with the Stage Manager.
 - All undergraduate students involved in the production are REQUIRED to attend.
 - Graduate Actors are released after 1 hour of participation at Strike due to their GTA responsibilities. Grad Actors must sign out with the Stage Manager before leaving.
 - Only the Technical Director may approve an absence from Strike. Under extenuating circumstances may a student be "excused" from or permitted to leave early from Strike. If the student is "excused" from a REQUIRED strike or leaves early from Strike, the Strike must be "made up" by one of the 3 following options:
 - The student must participate in two Strikes within the current academic semester.
- OR--
- The student must participate in one strike and serve 6 hours in the shop within the current academic semester.
- OR--
- The student must serve 12 hours in the shop within the current academic semester.

- If a student does not adhere to the above penalties for missing Strike or leaving early from Strike, or if the student misses or leaves Strike early without approval of the Technical Director the student will be:
 - Ineligible for Theatre and Dance Scholarships.
 - Ineligible to be cast in School of Theatre and Dance productions for the upcoming semester.
 - Ineligible to register for classes.
 - If enrolled in any section of P&P the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in Senior Project the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in Dancers for Choreographers or Dance Ensemble the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in West African Dance or World Dance (*Agbedidi*) the student's grade will be lowered.