

# **DAA 1000: Fundamentals of Dance Technique (3 Credits)**

University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance

McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavillion G-11

Fall 2016 MW 8:30am-10:25am

Section: 05D1

## **SYLLABUS**

### **Professor Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Melissa Canto Brenner

**Email:** mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment only \*Best way to reach me is via CANVAS e-mail

### **Course Description**

Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to ballet, jazz and modern dance. (H) 3 credits. *Fundamentals of Dance* is designed to provide accessibility to the world of dance for all students, novice or pre-professional. Along with learning the rudiments of the dance techniques, with a focus on dance styles common to Western culture, you will discover the rich heritage, challenging discipline, fertile aesthetic, as well as your place in the vast spectrum of dance. There is truth in advertising – as once you are successful in this class, these fundamentals become the basis for achieving excellence in higher levels and making informed connections with how this art interacts with your life. The following objectives provide the direction for the course:

### **Course Objectives**

- To provide a student with the history, basic techniques, and contemporary references relevant to accessing a basic understanding of ballet, jazz and modern dance.
- Enhance the mind/body connection through the application of sound biomechanical principles as they relate to dance, such as practicing proper alignment, learning basic human anatomy, and learning of alternative approaches to movement study. This knowledge will be directly applied to the various styles of dance learned in class.
- Practice elements of performing and explore performance quality, discovering your own potential and personal style while developing your kinesthetic memory
- Experience, discuss and write about live dance performances

### **Textbook**

A booklet of materials prepared especially for this course will be available free online.

**The handbook can be found on the homepage of DAA1000s' Canvas.**

Direct Link is: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance/downloads/syllabi.aspx>

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/201601/all/theadanc.htm>

## **Canvas**

**DAA1000 is set up on Canvas (e-learning).** DAA1000 students must have access to Canvas on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. All writing assignments and electronic communication will take place in Canvas. No hard copies will be accepted. A schedule and timeline for the course can be found on the Canvas calendar.

## **Course Requirements**

### **SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE:**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Dance Technique Class Attendance Guide:**

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins you are marked absent.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2015–16 Handbook (SoTD website) and included in this syllabus.

### **Dance Technique Class Absence Policy**

- Five (5) or more absences (excused or unexcused) result in automatic failure.
- All undocumented absences are unexcused: each unexcused absence = 5 point deduction. Excused absences may include
  - those related to illness/injury which are documented by a medical professional. Events related to family emergencies
  - or professional obligations should be discussed with your instructor. (See *Make-up Policy* for more information on excused absences.)
- For your safety and the focus of the class, you may not join class if it has already started. You are late and counted
  - absent; with instructor permission, you may observe.
- If you should leave class early, 3 points are deducted from your grade.
- If unable to dance but still attend, with instructor permission, you may ‘actively’ observe for full class credit, onetime.
  - You will complete an assignment as assigned by the instructor due at the end of class.
- UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up. (Travel time not included.)
  - You are responsible for material covered during your absence.
- A MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL will not be supported without approved documentation. An Incomplete is only considered
  - by UF Dance in extreme cases and is not available in technique classes.

**UF Absence Policy** <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.
- You cannot participate in classes unless you are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
- If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:**

**Dance Technique Class – Makeup Policy**

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for unexcused absences
- Absences from Written Exams, Quizzes, Mid-Terms, and/or Finals may only be made up with approved documentation
- To earn credit (amount of credit determined by the instructor) for an excused absence you must do two things:
  - 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
  - 2) Make-up the class with an approved assignment submitted on the required date. If the assignment is to attend another class as a make-up, it must be the same technical level, or lower; student must request permission of that instructor.

In the UF Dance Program, three unexcused absences will reduce your grade one-letter grade (i.e., from B to C). Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers your grade by half letter grade (i.e., from C to C-). After five unexcused absences the student may not return to class and result in automatic failure of the course. A student with medical documentation may apply to UF for Medical Withdrawal.

Please consult the following sites for UF's physical and mental health resources:

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/> (Student Health Care Center)

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy)

<http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)

### **Participation (45 points)**

Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and to contribute in group discussions. If a student is disruptive during class (talking, providing negative energy, or simply not participating) he/ she will lose participation points. These points can be deducted at the teacher's discretion. Note: Each absence will result in a loss of participation points.

### **Tardiness**

If a student arrives to class after the start time, the student will be considered tardy. It is the students' responsibility to inform the instructor (after class) that they arrived late. Otherwise they will be considered absent. **Each tardy will result in a 1 point deduction.** If a student is more than ten minutes late for a movement-based class, they must receive instructor permission to observe class. The student will write a one-page observation paper due at the beginning of the next class to receive attendance credit.

### **Observation Papers**

Observing class is only acceptable if the student is ill, injured, or tardy and gets instructor permission. If the student is observing class, they must take observation notes, which will be due by the end of the week via Canvas. These notes should not be a regurgitation of the steps performed in class but rather **observations of what you learned as a witness to dance.** Observation papers must be submitted via Canvas in the "Participation/ Observation Papers" module by Sunday (midnight) the same week. The student is only permitted to observe class up to TWO times during the semester.

### **Dance Attire**

Dance is an art and requires personal discipline and motivation. Respect for other students and the instructor is of the utmost importance. When in class you will be attentive and active. Be aware of the appropriate times to talk and/or sit. Attire should be form fitting, allowing the line of the body to be seen. Leotards and tights (leggings, bike or jazz pants) are suitable. Form fitting warmers are recommended and should be removed after warm-up. Men **must** wear a **dance belt**. No shoes are required for this course. **No large jewelry, no chewing gum, no hats, and no loose hair.** Personal hygiene is expected and is its own reward. You may lose points for improper attire, hair or attitude.

### **Classroom Policies/ Etiquette**

- RESPECT for others and the instructor is of the utmost importance. Be aware of appropriate times to talk or sit in class. Dance requires discipline and attention.
- No gum; No street shoes on the dance studio floor
- TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES and refrain from checking it during class
- No food or drinks are allowed in the studio, except water in a closed container
- Bags and personal items must remain along walls, away from the studio floor

### **Written Exams (20 points)**

All exams will be given **in class** on the assigned date. The two written exams will be based on reading assignments and in-class discussion.

#1 October 20th

#2 November 16th

### **Harn Museum Visit (5 points)**

Take a trip to the Harn Museum on Hull Rd. and find an inspirational exhibition for your midterm movement exam. Write a paragraph description of the artwork or exhibition you are using for your choreographic inspiration. The choreography will be presented as part of your midterm movement exam.

### **Movement Exams (15 points)**

These exams are based on your technical progress throughout the semester. More information on this will be given as we approach the exam dates.

#1 October 5th

#2 December 5th

### **Compare/ Contrast Paper (10 points)**

Attend TWO live dance performances (SEE \*APPROVED PERFORMANCE LIST). Submit a two-page (double spaced) paper to compare and contrast the performances. Writing guidelines will be available through Canvas. Papers must be submitted via Canvas **no later than two weeks after the second performance** and **NO LATER THAN 12/ 7** if seeing *Agbedidi*.

#### **\*APPROVED PERFORMANCE LIST**

- o *Dorrance Dance*, September 9, UFPA, 7:30
- o *Alonzo King Lines Ballet*, September 29, UFPA, 7:30
- o *Trisha Brown Dance (site specific)*, October 22, TBA
- o *Young Dancer's Workshop*, October 28/29, Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall
- o *BFA Fall Dance Showcase* (SoTD Dance), G-6, November 2-6
- o *Agbedidi* (SoTD Dance), Constans Theatre, December 2-4

UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653

UF Performing Arts (Phillips Center) #: (352) 392-2787

SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181

## **Grading Policy**

Participation	45 points
Harn Museum Visit	5 points
Midterm Movement Exam	10 points
Written Exam 1	10 points
Written Exam 2	10 points
Compare/ Contrast Paper	10 points
Final Movement Exam	10 points
Total	100 Points

### **Point/Grading Scale:**

A 93-100	B+ 86-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E 59 and below
A- 90-92	B 83-85	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

## **STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

## **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/](http://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 (<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. [<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>]

## GETTING HELP:

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

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (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

## Instructor Biography:

A native of Florida, **Melissa Brenner** attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts followed by the University of Florida, where she received her B.F.A. in dance performance and choreography in 2003. Melissa holds an M.F.A. from Arizona State University and a Pilates certification from Pilates Sports Center. As a performer, Melissa has danced with Mary Fitzgerald Dance, Karen Schupp Dance and has performed the works of Ashleigh Leite, Shapiro and Smith Dance and Elina Mooney, to name a few. While studying in Arizona, Melissa served on the board of the Arizona Dance Educators Organization, the University Graduate Council, was the President of the Graduate Dance Organization, and taught a number of classes at Arizona State including Modern, Ballet, Pilates/Yoga, and Introduction to Dance. Her choreography has been selected and presented on stages and site-specific locations throughout the U.S. since 2001. Melissa spends most summers performing and participating in festivals such as American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, Strictly Seattle and La Alternativa in San Francisco. Currently, Melissa is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Florida and Santa Fe College and is Assistant Director of Dance Theatre Santa Fe.