

BASIC MODERN DANCE: DAA 2104-1443

University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance

McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion G-6

T/TH 10:40AM-12:10PM

Spring 2017

SYLLABUS

Contact Information

Instructor: Melissa Brenner

Email: Mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only

Email Policy: Use ONLY your CANVAS and UFL.EDU account for e-mail correspondence.

Syllabi are posted at CFA website under Student Life:

<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/students/syllabi.aspx>

ALL DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COURSE CAN BE FOUND ON CANVAS

Course Objectives for Modern Technique

SoTD's modern technique curriculum is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students—majors, minors, and non-majors—to embrace the demands of the 21st century artist. Each level builds the required historical, aesthetic, and biomechanical foundations for graduating as a major in our dance degree programs. Likewise, the minor or non-major must recognize the classes as a pre-professional training ground by meeting the objectives at the appropriate level. When every student brings into every class their discipline and motivation, they will be ready to meet and greet the following goals common to each respective level of technique:

BASIC MODERN COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- * To learn the essentials of contemporary dance and to experience it personally.
- * To understand the major traditional aesthetic premises and development of contemporary dance.
- * To develop an informed view of the interaction of art and society in the 20/21st Century.
- * To develop fundamental technique and performance skills.
- * Demonstrate growth and progression within the following five areas of evaluation:
 - PLACEMENT AND ALIGNMENT
 - CORE SUPPORT AND CONDITIONING
 - SPATIAL AWARENESS AND FULL BODY INTEGRATION
 - RHYTHMIC CLARITY/MUSICALITY
 - PROFESSIONALISM
- * To explore the expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- * To empower the person/dancer/thinker/choreographer in each student.
- * To get hands on experience with the creative process & production of contemporary dance.

COURSE POLICIES:

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 2016–17 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)

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/>

GRADING POLICIES:

1. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT 25 points

These following areas are used by faculty to assess student progress throughout the semester:

- *Self-awareness—the student demonstrates an ability to retain an awareness of self while integrating their movement into spatial relationships with other persons and groups.*
- *Transitional Skills—demonstrates an understanding and dynamic use of different types of phrasing with an ability to sequence a variety of movements into an extended phrase: recognizing and moving through transitions and demonstrating follow - through of movement impulses as appropriate.*
- *Performance Quality—observable growth as a performing artist both in class and on stage.*
- *Creative Risk-taking—student dares to explore new territory.*
- *Overall Improvement—student demonstrates a clear positive progression throughout the semester.*

2. EVENT ATTENDANCE 15 points (see details below)

3. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

Midterm Evaluations 25 points In Class - Thursday February 16th, 2017

- *PLACEMENT AND ALIGNMENT*
- *CORE SUPPORT AND CONDITIONING*
- *SPATIAL AWARENESS AND FULL BODY INTEGRATION*
- *RHYTHMIC CLARITY/MUSICALITY*
- *PROFESSIONALISM*

(all categories are outlined at the end of syllabus)

4. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

Final Evaluations 25 points In Class - Thursday April 12th, 2017

- *PLACEMENT AND ALIGNMENT*
- *CORE SUPPORT AND CONDITIONING*
- *SPATIAL AWARENESS AND FULL BODY INTEGRATION*
- *RHYTHMIC CLARITY/MUSICALITY*
- *PROFESSIONALISM*

(all categories are outlined at the end of syllabus)

5. COMMUNITY IN MOTION 10 points

Participation in at least ONE of the following:

- Load-in for BFA Spring Dance Showcase
- Strike BFA Spring Dance Showcase
- Help with BFA Spring Dance Showcase (video, publicity, etc.)
- Assistance with BFA Dance Audition
- Assist in Harn Museum of Dance
- Strike for Dance 2017
- Find another way to support SOTD Dance program!

GRADING SCALE:

Total: 100 points

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

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

TECHNIQUE MID-TERM: Thursday February 16, 2017*

TECHNIQUE FINAL: Thursday April 12, 2017*

*Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Any changes in technique exam dates due to unseen circumstances will be announced in class and posted on the dance board in a timely fashion.

Performance and Event Participation

To help you to “think outside the box,” you must venture outside the studio!

BFA/BA Majors:

Attendance is required to all Unshowings, All SOTD Dance Performances (*Dance 2017*, *BFA Showcase*, *Harn Museum of Dance*) and at least ONE outside performance

Minors and Non-Majors:

Attendance to at least 2 of any of the following is required.

UnShowings

January 23, 2017 - First UnShowing

January 30, 2017 - Second UnShowing - CRP with Liz Lerman

February 13, 2017- Third UnShowing

March 13, 2017- Adjudication #1

March 20, 2017-Adjudication #2

April 10, 2017 -Final UnShowing

SoTD Dance Performances

Dance 2017 (Rounding the Corner) Constans Theatre, Feb. 23-25, 28-March 2

Harn Museum of Dance March 18th 1-4pm

BFA Spring Dance Showcase G-6, March 29-April 2

Outside Dance Productions

Elements of Style-, Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall, January 12-13 at 7:30pm

Riverdance January 17-19, UFPA, 7:30

Shen Yun January 24-25, UFPA, 7:30

Dance Alive! - Robin Hood! February 3/4, UFPA, 7:30/2:00

Twyla Tharp February 10, UFPA, 7:30

Dance Alive! - Firebird March 17, UFPA, 7:30

Momix: Opus Cactus March 29, UFPA 7:30

Step Afrika April 7, UFPA, 7:30

BFA Dance Auditions

January 27, 2017

Juries (All BFA Majors, BA Seniors): April 20 & 21, 2016

UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653

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

SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181

Important Box Office Changes: The (McGuire) University Box Office will open 45 minutes prior to the opening of each Constans Theatre or McGuire Black Box production. All primary box office activity will now be handled at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center (Gate 1) Hours: Tuesday thru Friday Noon- 5:00, Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm (No Mondays)

Performance Behavior/Decorum:

- Yes, please dress nice!
- No cell phones/texting at all, ever, never during a performance (unless the show requests it!)
- Represent the SoTD at the show!

Performance and Event Dates

Dates/times subject to change – please check dance bulletin board and/or contact appropriate box office. You will receive a voucher (coupon) at the beginning of the semester for assigned SoTD productions with instructions of how to use it to get discount tickets.

Required Performance and Event Dates

Dates/times subject to change – please check dance bulletin board and/or contact appropriate box office. You will receive a voucher (coupon) at the beginning of the semester for designated SoTD productions with instructions of how to use it to get your ticket.

ALL BFA majors and BA majors new to the program as of January 2016 are required to attend an end-of-year conference (Jury) April 21/22 with the dance faculty during Reading Days (the two days following end of classes). Do not make travel plans at this time— grade points will be deducted.

It is your responsibility to know your schedule. Check your (UF) email & the dance studio bulletin boards regularly.

Dress Policy:

- Attire which is form fitting & suitable for movement
- No oversized clothing
- No gym shorts
- Your ankles must be visible
- Hair needs to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches
- KNEE PADS should be in your dance bag or locker EVERY class
- No chewing gum
-

Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent from class or points deducted at instructor's discretion.

Please Note: Our work in the studios is designed to be challenging; physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Dance classes often involve touching. Physical contact may range from simple touch, to correcting alignment and/or relaxation massage. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If you have a related medical consideration or touch makes you uncomfortable, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the start of the semester.

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

Evaluations:

Midterm and Final evaluations occur during the class. You will be observed by the instructor and

perhaps other members of the dance faculty, and grades will be assigned based on the technical proficiencies listed above. If there is rotation in the instructors, all participating instructors will contribute to your grade. For the BFA major, application of your technique work to concert/performance work will be factored into your technique grade.

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 students 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.

It is your responsibility to know your schedule. Check your (UF) email & the dance studio bulletin boards regularly.

*Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. *

*Academic Honesty Guidelines: The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to act with integrity. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and a student being subject to the sanctions in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines (University of Florida Rule 6C1-4.017). *

Instructor Biography:

A native of Florida, **Melissa Brenner** attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, followed by the University of Florida, where received her BFA in dance in 2003. Upon graduation, Melissa moved to New York City to continue her training by studying with various contemporary modern dance artists.

In 2010, Melissa received her MFA in dance performance, choreography and pedagogy from Arizona State University. 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. Melissa received Best Performer and Student Service Award for 2009/2010 and received the Faculty Emeriti Fellowship and Graduate Research Grant for her thesis project titled "Recipes for Work and Play", a site-specific production presented at the Bragg's Pie Factory in 2009.

As a performer, Melissa has danced for Mary Fitzgerald, Karen Schupp, and has performed the works of Ashleigh Leite, Shapiro and Smith Dance, Kelly Drummond-Cawthon, Elina Mooney, and many others. 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 Bates Dance Festival in Maine, American Dance Festival in North Carolina, La Alternativa in San Francisco and Strictly Seattle in Washington.

Melissa holds a Pilates certification from Pilates Sports Center and is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida.