

# DANCE COMPOSITION 1

Fall 2017

**DAA 2610 Section: 1D62 (2 CREDITS)**

**Monday /Wednesday 12:50 – 2:20pm**

**Stephen C. O'Connell Center 2205**

INSTRUCTOR: Melissa Canto Brenner [mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu)\*

Office: Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Office Hours: By Appointment

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\*Email Policy: Use ONLY your [UFL.EDU](mailto:UFL.EDU) *or CANVAS* email account for email correspondence related to class. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

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

This course introduces composition and improvisation with an emphasis on process and movement making. Students will learn the basic elements of compositional techniques including: theme and variation, time and space, dynamics and energy. Solo and group work will be explored.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide the student with skills to generate movement and structure choreography
- To help the student build a personal 'toolbox' of ideas for choreography
- To practice dance making and improvisational skills
- To develop solo and group work
- To introduce the student to a variety of choreographers and choreographic styles
- To experience, discuss and write about live dance performances

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students must bring a notebook/ journal to every class. Notebooks will be kept for students to collect and store information, inspiration, track individual progress, and build a compositional 'toolbox'. Notebooks are for the student to keep and will not be shared or collected.

## CANVAS

DAA2610 is set up on Canvas (e-learning). 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.

## SUGGESTED READING

“The Creative Habit” by Twyla Tharp

“A Choreographer’s Handbook” by Jonathan Burrows

The New York Times

## COURSE POLICIES

### SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE:

#### **Dance 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 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 that 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.

### **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, out of the dancer's face; essentially not a distraction to the dancer, instructor or the class (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches
- No chewing gum

**Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent**

### **UF Absence Policy**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, as follows:

**Source:** <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.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### PROCESS SHOWINGS

Together we will workshop compositional tools and ideas. Some of these ideas will culminate into short movement studies. Students will be encouraged to develop and present THREE movement studies throughout the semester, which will be observed by and discussed with the class. Time will be given in-class to develop these studies. Students should show at least once in September, October and November.

### PERFORMANCE CRITIQUE

Students will be required to attend the BFA Showcase (11/1-11/5) AND Black Label Movement (10/26) OR Malpaso Dance Company (11/5). A compare/ contrast paper will be due no later than **November 19th**. Writing guidelines can be found on Canvas. Papers should be submitted through Canvas within the correct module. *If you are unable to attend these performances, please notify the instructor immediately for alternative options.*

### DISCUSSION BOARD

The discussion board (found in Canvas) will serve as a vessel for sharing, observing, and responding to choreography. Each student will be required to post TWO videos of choreography (full length or excerpt) that is not their own. Included should be some background information: Choreographer, company, year and any other background information that can be provided. In addition, each student will reply to the thread of at least THREE posted videos. Detailed instructions can be found on Canvas.

### PROGRESS/ EFFORT/ COMPREHENSION/ RISK

Students are expected to be actively engaged and put forth maximum effort during class. A supportive learning environment will be facilitated and each student will be expected to contribute.

### UNSHOWING ATTENDANCE

Students will be required to attend ONE UnShowing during the semester. The departmental UnShowings are a presentation of works 'in progress' created by SOTD dance students. Viewing of UnShowings will aid in the understanding of creative process and engage students in feedback sessions/ discussion surrounding choreography. Sign-in sheets will be available for proof of attendance.

Fridays Daytime UnShowings: (10:40-12:35) September 8 and September 22

Monday Evening UnShowings: (6:30-8:30) October 16 and October 23

### FINAL PROJECT/ PAPER

The final project will be a showing of a more fully developed movement study. Students will borrow tools explored in class to create a cumulative work appropriate for the final showing. These may be solo or group works. Final project showings will take place 11/29, 12/4, and 12/6. A reflective paper on the process will be through Canvas, due by **December 10th**.

## EVALUATION

Process Showings	30 points (3@ 10 points each)
Progress/ Effort/ Comprehension/Risk	20 points
Performance Critique	15 points
Unshowing Attendance	5 points
Discussion Board	10 points
Final Project Showing	10 points
Final Project Reflection Paper	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.

**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.