

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE
DANCE COMPOSITION 2, DAA 2611
SPRING 2018

Instructor: Angela McDonough DiFiore

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Office Hours: M/W 11am-12pm, Friday by appointment only

Office: Nadine McGuire Pavilion T211

DAA 2611, Section 2841, 2 Credits

Class meetings- T/H- MaGuire Pavilion G11, Period 6-7, 12:50 pm- 2:45 pm

***Email Policy: Use ONLY your *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. [UFL.EDU](mailto:ufl.edu) email may be used when Canvas is not available.**

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

Credits: 2; Prereq: DAA 2610 or instructor permission.

This course is a continuation of the practice of composition with an emphasis on process, improvisation, movement making, and choreographic development. Students will put into practice the basic elements of compositional techniques, including: theme and variation, time and space, dynamics and energy, and develop a more sophisticated understanding of choreography. Solo and group work will be explored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide the student with a variety of skills to generate movement and structure choreography
- To guide the student to fully develop their choreographic ideas
- To help the student build a personal 'toolbox' of ideas for choreography
- To develop, present, and gain feedback on solo and group work
- To expose the student to a variety of choreographers and choreographic styles
- To experience, discuss and write about professional choreography/ 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'.

CANVAS

DAA2611 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, one time. 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 and 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 TIMELINE

January 9, 11 Course Introduction/ Maria Gillespie

January 16, 18 Elements of Composition

January 23, 25 Movement Invention

Jan 30, Feb 1 **Showing #1**

February 6, 8 Harn Museum Visit #1/ Inspirational Resources

February 13, 15 Using Props

February 20, 22 **Showing #2**

Feb 27-March 1 Harn Museum Visit #2/ ACDA

March 5-March 11 Spring Break

March 13, 15 Creative Habits/ HMOD

March 20, 22 Titles/ Music

March 27, 29 **Showing #3**

April 3, 5 Site Work

April 10, 12 Preparation for final showings/ NATIONAL WATER DANCE

April 17, 19 **Final Showings**

April 24 **Final Showings**

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. Some time will be given

in-class to develop these studies, but students may need to find additional time to create. Showing dates are listed in the course timeline.

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.

DISCUSSION BOARD

The CANVAS discussion board will serve as a vessel for sharing, observing, and responding to choreography virtually. Each student will be required to post FOUR videos throughout the semester (1 per month) 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 EIGHT posted videos- or threaded replies-, 2 per month. Detailed instructions can be found on Canvas under the DISCUSSIONS tab.

UNSHOWINGS/ UF DANCE PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Students will be required to attend all semester UnShowings and SOTD Dance performances. Viewing of unshowings and performances 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.

Required UnShowing Dates / UF Dance Performances

First UnShowing - Friday, February 2, 2018 at 10:40 am-12:35pm

Second UnShowing - Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:30pm

Adjudication #1 Showing: Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Adjudication #2 Showing: Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:30pm- until

Dance 2018: Stepping on the Audience: An Evening of Dance in Intimate Spaces -

February 9 -10 at 7:30 PM , February 11 at 2:00 PM, February 14 - 17 at 7:30 PM and

February 18 at 2:00PM

National Water Dance- April 14, 2018 4pm, Location TBA

The Harn Museum of Dance (HMod 2.0) - Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1:00PM- 4:00PM

Spring 2018 BFA Showcase - April 4-April 9th (Various Times)

PERFORMANCE CRITIQUE

Students will be required to attend at least THREE of the following performances, and write a critical response to ONE performance. There will be a module on Canvas titled 'Performance Proof of Attendance. Here you should upload a selfie at the three performances (Pre/ Post or Intermission, and certainly not during, of course). If you forget to take a selfie, a one paragraph description will suffice as proof. Writing guidelines for the critique can be found on Canvas. Papers should be submitted through Canvas, within the correct module, no later than **April 27, 2018** . *If you are unable to attend one of these performances, please notify the instructor immediately for alternative options.*

Tango Fire - Friday, January 19, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/tango-fire/>

Ballet Boyz - Friday, January 31, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/balletboyz/>

Pilobolus: Shadowland -Friday, February 23, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/pilobolus-shadowland/>

Martha Graham Dance Company - Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/martha-graham-dance-company/>

Falun Dafa Association Presents SHEN YUN- Wednesday, March 14 - 16 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/shen-yun/>

Lil Buck and Jon Boogz: Love Heals All Wounds - Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/lil-buck-and-jon-boogz-love-heals-all-wounds/>

Elements of Style- Dance Theatre of Santa Fe- Friday, March 23-24 at 7:30PM

<http://finearts/sfcollege.edu>

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella - Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/rodgers-and-hammersteins-cinderella/>

Dance Alive National Ballet: The Ring - Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/dance-alive-national-ballet-presents-the-ring/>

Fathom Events:

Bolshoi Ballet: Romeo and Juliet

January 21, 2018, 12:55 PM

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/bolshoi1718-romeo-and-juliet?date=2018-01-21>

Bolshoi Ballet: The Lady of the Camellias

February 4, 2018, 12:55 PM

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/bolshoi1718-lady-of-the-camellias-encore?date=2018-02-04>

Bolshoi Ballet: The Flames of Paris

March 4, 2018, 12:55 PM

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/bolshoi1718-flames-of-paris?date=2018-03-04>

Bolshoi Ballet: Giselle

April 8, 2018, 12:55 PM

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/bolshoi1718-giselle?date=2018-04-08>

Location:

Regal Cinemas Gainesville Cinema 14 3101 SW 35th Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32608

FINAL PROJECT/ PAPER

The final project will be a showing of a fully developed choreographic work. Students may utilize tools explored in class, and/or continue with one of the three movement studies to present for the final showing.

These may be solo or group works. Final project showings will take place **April 17, 19, and 24**. A

reflective paper on the process will be through Canvas, due by **April 27th** (11:59pm)

EVALUATION

Process Showings 30 points (3 @ 10 points each)

Progress/ Effort/ Comprehension/Risk 20 points

Performance Critique/ Attendance 10 points

Unshowing/ UF Dance Attendance 10 points

Discussion Board 8 points

Final Project Showing 15 points

Final Project Reflection Paper 7 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 ONLINE 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/) 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

■ (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 email 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

Biography:

Angela McDonough DiFiore has over twenty years experience in the field of dance as a performer, choreographer, and educator. She holds a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts and an MFA in Dance (Choreography and Performance), from Florida State University. Angela has presented her choreographic work in performances at FSU's Days of Dance in Tallahassee, Florida, the Florida Dance Festival in Miami Florida, Florida Dance on Tour, Gainesville, Florida, Broward College, Ft Lauderdale Florida, Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Florida, College of Central Florida, Ocala, Florida, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Mt San Jacinto Community College, Mt San Jacinto, California, and Pro Danza Italia in Montescudaio, Italy.

From 1998-2003 Angela served as co-director of the dance program at Broward College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. At Broward College she had the opportunity to teach Ballet, Modern and Jazz as well as choreograph for the BCC Dance Ensemble, direct concerts, develop dance program curriculum and mentor students.

She has performed throughout the south Florida region with such groups as Dancesynergy, Corps Chameleon, Millennium Dance Syndicate Ballet Flamenco La Rosa and Kokoflux, Fuzion Dance Artists, and other independent artists. While completing her MFA in dance at Florida State University, Angela had the opportunity to dance in the work of choreographers such as Lynda Davis, Terry Creach, Susan Marshall, and Brendt Schneider. She was also an active member of Dance Repertory Theatre, as a performer, rehearsal director and company assistant.

While living in New York City, Angela performed with The Ugly Company, directed by Tennille Lambert at various performances at the Cunningham Theatre Space, Movement Research, and Dance Theater Workshop. She also taught for FSU in NYC (a dance program in NYC through Florida State University, designed for undergraduate Seniors and Masters students), leading the Movement/Studio element "Class as a moving body". Angela worked closely with Dr. Sally Sommer to connect the studio element with the history and research portions of the FSU in NYC experience.

Additional creative projects have included choreographing and performing a solo titled, "Kindred Memories" with original music composed by Richard DiFiore. "Kindred Memories" was reconstructed for a University of Florida dance major in performances during 2014 and 2015. She also reset her solo "Lilac

Wine” for dance students at University of Florida and Mt San Jacinto Community College. Angela created a work titled “Dances for Will McLean”, commissioned by the Will McLean Foundation and the College of Central Florida. Angela was an organizer and contributor to the Florida Waterways Dance Project 2011, and the National Water Dance Project 2014 led by Kristin O’Neal, in collaboration with University of Florida. In April 2016 Angela had the pleasure of being a guest choreographer, collaborator and organizer for the National Water Dance Project “The Ripple Effect” in collaboration with Solveig Santillano and Mercyhurst University, Erie Pennsylvania.

In addition to dance, Angela has a great interest in yoga and has cultivated her own personal practice since 2003, and is a RYT certified yoga instructor and a member of Yoga Alliance since 2010. She created a yoga course designed specifically for dancers, at the School of Theatre and Dance at the University of Florida in 2011. Angela has taught both dance and yoga at Santa Fe College, University of Florida, the College of Central Florida, Soma Movement Arts and Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp.