

# Broadway Dance Styles 1

**class:** DAA 4930  
**location:** CON G11  
**time:** Mon & Wed, 8:30am - 10:25am  
**instructor:** Andrew Cao  
**email:** andrewcao@ufl.edu  
**phone:** tbd  
**office:** McCarty C 305  
**office hours:** tbd

## Course Overview:

Jerome Robbins. Bob Fosse. Jack Cole. Gillian Lynne. Wayne Cilento. These are just a few of the prominent choreographers who helped shape the landscape of dance on Broadway and in musical theatre throughout the world. Much of their iconic choreography is still performed today. Focusing on the mid-20th century through approximately the year 2000, we will learn the original choreography of these and many other Broadway legends. Their varying styles and techniques will help you begin your journey toward becoming a better, more well-rounded dancer and prepare you for the diverse styles of dance that you will encounter in the professional musical theatre world.

## Course Objectives:

- improve overall dance technique and ability
- increase strength, health, flexibility, and confidence
- expand knowledge of and familiar with the musical theatre dance repertoire
- learn to pick up choreography quicker and represent yourself better in dance auditions
- recognize a choreographer's style, know which shows he/she is famous for, and understand where he/she fits into musical theatre history timeline

# Dance Attire and Class Etiquette

**SHOES:** Classes will involve a variety of combinations encompassing many different styles, so students will need to have the following shoes in their arsenal. I will do my best to let you know ahead of time which shoes are needed for the next class. \*If you already have dance shoes but are worried they're not the right heel height or color or whatever, no worries. The info below is merely a guide. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions!



- 1) Character heel.  
Industry standard heel height is 2.5"



- 2) Jazz shoe/slipper



\* Women should choose a color that is closest to your skin tone, in an effort to create a seamless line from the top of your leg to the tip of your toe.



- 1) Character shoe



- 2) Jazz shoe/slipper



\* Men should choose black.

**CLOTHES:** Form-fitting clothes are always best, as it's important that we see the lines and shapes that your body is creating. You may absolutely wear heavier/looser/baggier clothes at the start of class and shed layers as your body begins to warm up. No hats or large, dangly necklaces, etc.

**HAIR:** You are welcome to wear your hair down if it doesn't cover your face. I would suggest always having a hair tie available.

**FOOD:** Although no food is allowed in the dance studios, I encourage you to bring healthy snacks to refuel before/after class and even during water breaks. Please no gum.

**WATER:** Hydration is key to your body performing the way you want it to. Invest in a re-useable water bottle to bring with you into the studio. Drink water all day long.

**CELL PHONES:** Please don't take any videos of the material we learn in class.

## A note about Physical Touch...

The nature of our work as dancers involves an intimate relationship with our bodies and sometimes the bodies of dancers around us. Partnering, weight-sharing, and other forms of body-to-body contact will occasionally be a part of the material we're studying. In addition, although I will always attempt to offer corrections and guidance verbally, there may come a time when I need to use a physical correction to aid with positioning, alignment, or execution of a particular movement. If you are uncomfortable with ANY of the above, no problem. Feel free to speak with or email me so you and I can come up with a solution together.

## Schedule

Class structure will be roughly the same every day: We'll usually begin by talking a bit about the choreographer/musical/style that we're studying that day, followed by a warm-up and technique exercises. The majority of class will be spent working on choreographic combinations.

## Attendance

I have a strong opinion about punctuality and showing up to work. In the professional world, your reliability will play a big part in growing and sustaining your career.

**ABSENCES:** You will be granted 2 absences without penalty. You do not have to give me a reason or tell me ahead of time. For your 3rd absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final grade. 4th absence = 6 points will be deducted. 5th absence = 12 points will be deducted. Please note that these point deductions are cumulative. 6 or more absences will result in automatic failure of the class.

**LATE:** If you arrive late, please join in without distracting or disrupting the class already in progress. 3 late arrivals will count as 1 absence. Every additional late arrival after your 3rd will result in a deduction of 5 points. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will be counted as an absence and you will not be allowed to participate in class that day.

**INJURY:** If you are injured in class or nursing an injury that already happened, please let me know. You can observe class without penalty. However, in lieu of your physical participation, I will ask that you submit to me a minimum of 250 words on the choreographer or musical that we are studying that day. This paper is due BEFORE the start of the next class. If you do not submit the paper on time, you will be counted absent for the day that you observed.

# Grading

**Grading will be based on a 100 point scale.**

**80 points** are based on your classroom participation. This includes things like your attendance, work ethic, focus, energy, preparation, attitude, motivation, etc.

**5 points** will come from a written assessment of the choreography in a live musical theatre production other than HAIRSPRAY here at UF. Close-by examples of this might be a musical production at The University of Florida Performing Arts Center or the Gainesville Community Playhouse, but you may see any live, in-person musical theatre production you wish.

- papers must be a minimum of 500 words
- content should cover your observations and opinions on the choreography. What was the style of movement? What role did the choreography play in the storytelling? Did anything stand out with regard to the dancers' performances? Did you like it?
- to prove that you were there, please take a selfie in your seat with your program and/or ticket stub in hand. Please include this picture inside the body of your paper.

**15 points** will come from a **FINAL PRESENTATION**, which will be a showing during one of our last classes. I'll choose two or three different combinations that we learned throughout the semester and we'll spend a class or two reviewing and cleaning the dance material before the final presentation date. Grading for the dance portion will be based on the accuracy and quality of your movement, but the most important thing I'll be assessing is your demonstrated growth and improvement as a dancer.

Letter Grade	Total Points	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00
C-	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

# University Policies

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Current UF grading policies can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352 392 8565 <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>) 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.

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/>