

# BASIC MODERN DANCE (Non-Majors)

FALL 2018

**DAA 2104 Section: 3194 (2 Credits)**

**T/TH 8:55am-10:25am**

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

**University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance**

## **Professor Contact Information**

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

Office: T212, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Office Hours: T/TH 10:40-12:40 (Best way to reach me is via CANVAS e-mail)

Office Phone: 352-273-0500 Main Office

\*Email Policy: Use ONLY your **CANVAS** email account for email correspondence related to class. [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>

**Text** (Highly Recommended)

Prime Movers: The Makers of Modern Dance in America ISBN: 0871272113

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 modern dance and to experience it personally.
- \* To understand the major traditional aesthetic premises and development of contemporary modern 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 2018-19 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 **35 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**

- Attendance to TWO live events is required. A list of APPROVED events and details can be found below. Last day to submit is DECEMBER 5th.

### 3. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

#### Midterm Evaluations **15 points** - October 23rd

- PLACEMENT AND ALIGNMENT
- CORE SUPPORT AND CONDITIONING
- SPATIAL AWARENESS AND FULL BODY INTEGRATION
- RHYTHMIC CLARITY/MUSICALITY
- PROFESSIONALISM (all categories are outlined in the larger syllabus)

### 4. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

#### Final Evaluations **15 points** - December 4th

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

### 5. HISTORICAL PROJECT

- **Presentation 10 points** - September 20th and November 1st. (Full details can be found in CANVAS) With a partner, you will present a modern dance pioneer.
- **Written Exam 10 points** - Wednesday, November 8th.

A written exam will be given, in class, and will cover historical information from *Prime Movers* and class presentations. A review will be given prior to the exam.

## EVENT ATTENDANCE DETAILS

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

**BFA/BA Dance Majors:** Attendance is required to all Unshowings, All SOTD Dance Performances and at least ONE outside performance.

**Minors and Non-Majors:** Attendance to at least two of any of the following is required.

Proof of attendance can be recorded within the Canvas module marked “Event Attendance”. Selfies AND a paragraph describing your experience should be provided.

Due by DECEMBER 5TH.

- **Thursday, August 23 - MOD Dance Ensemble Audition 6:30 - 8:00PM**
- **Wednesday, August 29 - Faculty works' Audition 6:30 - 8:30PM**
- **Thursday, August 30 - Fall BFA 2018 Showcase Audition 6:30 - 8:30PM**
- **UnShowing #1 - Friday, September 14, 2018 - 10:40 AM - 12:25PM**
- **UnShowing #2 - Friday, September 28, 2018 - 10:40AM - 12:25PM**
- **Adjudication #1 - Monday, October 9, 2018 - 6:30 PM – Until**
- **Adjudication #2 - Monday, October 16, 2018 - 6:30PM - Until (Finalize Program Order)**
- **Final UnShowing - Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30PM - Until**

### **UF Dance Productions**

**Fall 2018 BFA Showcase** – October 24 – October 27, 2018 at 7:00PM; October 28, 2018 at 3:00PM

**AGBEDIDI** – November 30- December 1, 2018 at 2:00PM; December 2, 2018 at 2:00PM

### **UFPA Performing Arts**

**Dance Alive: Wonderment-** October 24-25 at 7:30PM

**Jessica Lang Dance** – Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/jessica-lang-dance/>

### **Santa Fe College Dance Productions**

**Dimensions Dance Theatre** – October 18, 2018 at 8:00PM

<https://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/index.php>

**The Florida Dance Association Young Dancers Showcase “A”** – October 19, 2018 at 8:00PM

<https://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/index.php>

**The Florida Dance Association Young Dancers Showcase “B”-** October 20, 2018 at 8:00PM  
<https://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/index.php>

**Holiday at Santa Fe!** – December 1, 2018 at 2:00PM and 6:00PM  
<https://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/index.php>

### **BFA Dance Auditions**

Friday, October 12, 2018

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.

### **Grading Policy**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Technique Assessment	Continuous	35 points
Event Attendance	Continuous	15 points
Midterm Evaluation	10/23/2018	15 points
Final Evaluation	12/4/2018	15 points
Historical Project		
Presentation	9/20 and 11/1	10 points
Written Exam	11/8/2018	10 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>100 Points</b>

### **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

\*Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

\*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.

**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***

**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):**

\*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). \*