

BASIC MODERN DANCE (Non-Majors) FALL 2019

DAA 2104 Section: 115G (2 Credits)

T/TH 10:40am-12:10pm

Stephen C. O'Connell Center Dance Studio 2205

University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance

Instructor Contact Information

PROFESSOR: Melissa Canto Brenner mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu*

Office: T212, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion 2nd floor

Office Hours: T/TH 9AM-10:15AM (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 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 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 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.

Textbook (Recommended)

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

Suggested Reading

Studying Dance: A guide for Campus and Beyond by Karen Schupp ISBN: 9781450437165

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 2019-20 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)

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

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. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

Midterm Evaluations **25 points** - **October 10th**

- 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)

3. PROOF OF ACHIEVING TECHNICAL APTITUDE

Final Evaluations **25 points** - **November 21st**

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

4. HISTORICAL PROJECT **10 points**

Various Due Dates. With a partner, you will present a *Prime Mover* to the class. More information about the presentations will be given in class and on Canvas.

5. EVENT ATTENDANCE DETAILS **15 points**

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

BA/ BFA 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 10th**

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.

- **Welcome Back Meeting Dance Area Students & Faculty-** Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30PM
- **Faculty Works' Audition-** Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30 – 8:30PM
- **Fall BFA 2019 Showcase Audition-** Thursday, August 22 - 6:30 - 8:30PM
- **UnShowing #1**– Monday, September 9, 2019 – 6:30PM
- **Adjudication-** Monday, October 14, 2019 - 6:30 PM – Until
- **Final UnShowing** - Monday, December 2, 2019 - 6:30PM - Until

UF Dance Productions- UF Box Office #:(352) 392-1653

Fall 2019 BFA Showcase –October 23 – October 27, 2019 at 7:00PM; October 28, 2019 at 1:00 PM
(Program A) 3:00PM (Program B)

AGBEDIDI –November 22- November 23, 2019 at 7:30PM; November 24, 2019 at 2:00PM

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

Black Label Movement –Friday, October 11, 2019 at 7:30PM

<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/black-label-movement/>

Dance Alive National Ballet presents Anna Karenina –Thursday, October 24 - Friday, October 25, 2019 at 7:30PM <https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/anna-karenina/>

Santa Fe College Dance Productions- Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall Theatre #: (352) 395-4181

Carmen Suite- November 8-9 at 7:30PM

The Young Dancer Workshop- UF/SF Welcome Concert – November 1, 2019 at 8:00PM

The Young Dancer Workshop Showcase –November 2, 2019 at 8:00PM

Holiday at Santa Fe! –December 7, 2019 at 2:00PM and 6:00PM

Beyond Gainesville

Any performance that appears on this list of Central Florida performances is approved.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tc5MTc3Ag2Ec-3VgyLYjh86O6-Yz9z7GFq7pWLwXbi0/edit>

Performance Behavior/Decorum:

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

Grading Policy

ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE	POINTS
Technique Assessment	Continuous	25 points
Event Attendance	Continuous	15 points
Midterm Evaluation	10/10/2019	25 points
Final Evaluation	11/21/2019	25 points
Historical Project	Various Dates	10 points
Total		100 Points

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.

STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

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)

Extra Credit

Extra credit is only offered in extreme circumstances. Do not expect that extra credit will automatically be available to you. If emergencies arise, please talk to the instructor.

STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing on-line 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/>

A note on choreography and plagiarism: Plagiarism violates the UF Honor Code and can result in Suspension or Dismissal. Plagiarism means intentionally or unintentionally using another's words or ideas without giving credit. When using ideas or exact words from another person you must give citations for the source(s), even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it. In addition, as we are working with aspects of movement composition that may often make reference to other works of dance, no unaccredited lifting, copying, or sampling of dance material from YouTube or other sources will be permissible. These kinds of actions/uses are subject to penalties for plagiarism.

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 or TAs in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Campus Resources:

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. *University Police Department*: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

NETIQUETTE: 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>]

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning- support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

<https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support,

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 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

DANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE FALL SEMESTER CALENDAR

August:

20 – **Welcome Back Dance Area Meeting with Students & Dance faculty 7:30 PM in G-6**

21 – **Faculty works audition – in G-6**

22 – **Fall BFA 2018 Showcase Audition 6:30 - 8:30PM in G-6**

28 – **The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night Time – premiere at Hippodrome (through 9/22)**

September:

2 – Labor Day – no classes

9 – **UnShowing #1 – 6:30-8:30 PM in G-6**

22-29 – We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Südwestafrika, Between the Years 1884–1915 – Black Box Theatre
October:

4-6 – Homecoming

9 – Production meeting for Fall BFA Showcase 3-4 PM

11 – Black Label Movement, UFPA, Phillips Center, 7:30 PM

14 – **UnShowing #2 Adjudication** – 6:30-8:30 PM in G-6

18 – **BFA Showcase load-in**

18-27 – Pippin – Constans Theatre

19 – Tech BFA Showcase: Program A 1-5, Program B 7-11

20 – Tech/Dress BFA Showcase: Program A 1-5, Program B 7-11

21 – Dress BFA Showcase with photos 7-11 PM

23-27 – **BFA Showcase performances**

27 – Fathom Event: Bolshoi Ballet: Raymonda 12:55 PM Regal 14, Gainesville

31 – Young Dancer Workshop UF Showcase performance tech/dress

November:

1-2 – Young Dancer Workshop with UF Showcase performance 11/1 Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall, 8 PM

11 – Veterans Day – no classes

12 – Spacing rehearsal AGBEDIDI, 6:30-10:30 PM, Constans Theatre

13 – Spacing rehearsal AGBEDIDI, 6:30-10:30 PM, Constans Theatre

14 – Spacing rehearsal AGBEDIDI, 6:30-10:30 PM, Constans Theatre

17 – AGBEDIDI tech with costumes, 7-11 PM, Constans Theatre

Fathom Event: Bolshoi Ballet: Le Corsaire 12:55 PM Regal 14, Gainesville

18 – AGBEDIDI tech with costumes, 7-11 PM, Constans Theatre

19 – AGBEDIDI, Dress #1, 7:30-11 PM, Constans Theatre

20 – AGBEDIDI, Dress #2, 7:30-11 PM, Constans Theatre

21 – AGBEDIDI, Dress #3, 7:30-11 PM, Constans Theatre

22-24 – AGBEDIDI performances, Constans Theatre

27-12/1 – Thanksgiving Break

December:

2 – Final UnShowing 6:30-8:30 in G-6

4 – Last day of classes

5-6 – Reading Days/**Dance Program Critical Response Appointments**

7-13 – Finals

PROFESSOR BIO:

Melissa Canto Brenner studied dance at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, and 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 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. In addition, Melissa holds a Pilates certification from Pilates Sports Center.

As a performer, Melissa has performed the works of Mary Fitzgerald, Karen Schupp, Elizabeth Johnson, Rebecca Bryant, 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. In 2017, her choreography was selected for the Gala performance at American College Dance Festival, performed by Dance Theatre of Santa Fe.

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 is currently Adjunct Lecturer at University of Florida, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Santa Fe College, and Co-Director of Dance Theatre of Santa Fe.