

DAA 1000: Fundamentals of Dance Technique (3 Credits)

University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance

Spring 2020 MW

Sections: 22A6 Periods 2-3/ 6091 Periods 4-5

Stephen C. O'Connell Center Dance Studio 2205

SYLLABUS

Instructor Contact Information

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

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

Office Hours: T/TH 9:00-10:30am. Please schedule appointments via CANVAS e-mail.

Office Phone: 352-294-0458

*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.

Course Description

Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to ballet, jazz and modern dance. (H) 3 credits. *Fundamentals of Dance* is designed to provide accessibility to the world of dance for all students, novice or pre-professional. Along with learning the rudiments of the dance techniques, with a focus on dance styles common to Western culture, you will discover the rich heritage, challenging discipline, fertile aesthetic, as well as your place in the vast spectrum of dance. There is truth in advertising – as once you are successful in this class, these fundamentals become the basis for achieving excellence in higher levels and making informed connections with how this art interacts with your life. The following objectives provide the direction for the course:

Course Objectives

- To provide a student with the history, basic techniques, and contemporary references relevant to accessing a basic understanding of ballet, jazz and modern dance.
- Enhance the mind/body connection through the application of sound biomechanical principles as they relate to dance, such as practicing proper alignment, learning basic human anatomy, and learning of alternative approaches to movement study. This knowledge will be directly applied to the various styles of dance learned in class.
- Practice elements of performing and explore performance quality, discovering your own potential and personal style while developing your kinesthetic memory
- Experience, discuss and write about live dance performances

Textbook

A booklet of materials prepared especially for this course will be available free online.

The handbook can be found on the homepage of DAA1000s' Canvas.

Direct Link is: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance/downloads/syllabi.aspx>

Syllabi are posted at CFA website under: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201601/all/theadanc.htm>

Canvas

DAA1000 is set up on Canvas (e-learning). DAA1000 students must have access to Canvas on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. All writing assignments and electronic communication will take place in Canvas. No hard copies will be accepted. A timeline for the course can be found on Canvas.

Course Requirements

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 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. Excused absences are available for make-up. See *Make-up Policy* for more information on excused absences.

Excused absences must be made up to earn credit for missed class time.

- 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.

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.

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 (Tights, Leotards, Leggings, Yoga type pants, form fitted sweatpants)
- Men- If you choose to wear tights a dance belt will be required
- No oversized clothing
- Shorts are not recommended
- Hair needs to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches

Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent from class or points deducted at instructor's discretion.

Participation (45 points)

Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and to contribute in group discussions. If a student is disruptive during class (talking, providing negative energy, or simply not participating) he/ she will lose participation points. These points can be deducted at the teacher's discretion. Note: Each absence will result in a loss of participation points.

Tardiness

If a student arrives to class after the start time, the student will be considered tardy. It is the students' responsibility to inform the instructor (after class) that they arrived late. Otherwise they will be considered absent. **Each tardy will result in a 1 point deduction.** If a student is more than ten minutes late for a movement-based class, they must receive instructor permission to observe class. The student will write a one-page observation paper due at the beginning of the next class to receive attendance credit.

Observation Papers

Observing class is only acceptable if the student is ill, injured, or tardy and gets instructor permission. If the student is observing class, they must take observation notes, which will be due by the end of the week via Canvas. These notes should not be a regurgitation of the steps performed in class but rather **observations of what you learned as a witness to dance.** Observation papers must be submitted via Canvas in the "Participation/ Observation Papers" module by Sunday (midnight) the same week. The student is only permitted to observe class up to TWO times during the semester.

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.

Classroom Policies/ Etiquette

- RESPECT for others and the instructor is of the utmost importance. Be aware of appropriate times to talk or sit in class. Dance requires discipline and attention.

- No gum; No street shoes on the dance studio floor
- TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES and refrain from checking it during class
- No food or drinks are allowed in the studio, except water in a closed container
- Bags and personal items must remain along walls, away from the studio floor

Learning Community

As we cultivate our studio practice, we will critically evaluate our thoughts, opinions, and assumptions. As a learning community, I ask that we collectively invest in an environment in which all class members feel empowered to physically and intellectually take risks, ask questions, experiment, and grow. Dance practices frequently intersect with the difficult and at times violent pasts and presents of inequalities related to race, gender, sexuality, class and ability. Feelings of discomfort can at times accompany new physical practices as well as ideas. I ask that, as part of your rigorous engagement with the course, you meet the material as best you can and allow others the space to do the same. Please consult with me should any questions or concerns around course content or dialogue arise.

- Online Learning Community: Our learning community includes communication outside of class. Your commitment to creating a positive learning community includes not only how you interact in class but also how you interact with and/or represent other members of our class online via in threaded discussions on Canvas, social media, and other platforms. Please use formal, respectful, and professional standards when corresponding with me and with each other via email and/or Canvas. An email is not a text message nor a DM. Please begin emails with a formal greeting and avoid unprofessional colloquialisms. For UF guidelines on “netiquette”:
<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Written Exams (20 points)

All exams will be given on the assigned date. The two written exams will be based on reading assignments and in-class discussion.

Chapters 1-4: February 12th (In Class)

Chapter 5: April 8th (In Class)

Harn Museum Submission (5 points)

We will take a trip to the Harn Museum on **March 18th** to find an inspirational exhibition for your final movement project. Submit a paragraph description (**DUE 4/22**), including artist and title, (in Canvas) of the artwork or exhibition you are using for your choreographic inspiration. The choreography will be presented as part of your midterm movement exam.

Movement Exams (20 points)

These exams are based on your technical progress throughout the semester. More information on this will be given as we approach the exam dates. Movement exams will take place in class during regularly scheduled class times.

Midterm Showing: March 11th

Final Showing: April 22nd

Compare/ Contrast Paper (10 points)

Attend TWO live dance performances (SEE *APPROVED PERFORMANCE LIST). Submit a paper to compare and contrast the performances. Writing guidelines will be available through Canvas. Papers must be submitted via Canvas by **April 29th**

APPROVED PERFORMANCE LIST (Choose Two)

***Performances outside of this list should be approved by the instructor for this assignment**

UF Dance Productions

UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653

Dance 2020

February 7th- 8th at 7:30pm and February 9th at 2pm in SOTD Black Box
February 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th at 7:30pm and February 16th at 2pm in SOTD Black Box
<https://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/events/dance-2020/>

HMOD (FREE PERFORMANCE)

March 21st from 1pm to 4pm at Harn Museum
<http://www.harn.ufl.edu/>

B.F.A Showcase

April 1st – 4th at 7:30pm and April 5th – Program A at 2pm and Program B at 4pm
<https://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/events/spring-bfa-dance-showcase-1534/>

National Water Dance (FREE PERFORMANCE)

April 18th at 4pm, location in GNV to be determined
<https://nationalwaterdance.org/>

Santa Fe College Dance

SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181

Malpaso Dance Company

March 21st at 7:30pm at Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall
<https://tickets.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&w=cc5d3f5d01e45efac6a75aac3c774f8>

UFPA Performing Arts

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

National Ballet Theater of Odessa

Romeo and Juliet
January 8th at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

Invertigo Dance Theater- Formulae & Fairy Tales
February 5th at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

Dance Alive National Ballet- Loveland
February 14th at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

Paul Taylor Dance
March 6th at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

Dance Alive National Ballet- Athletes of God-
April 2nd- 3 at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

Leela Dance Collective - SPEAK
April 21st at 7:30pm
<https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

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>

Grading Policy

ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE	POINTS
Participation	Ongoing	45 points
Written Exam #1	2/12	10 points
Midterm Showing	3/11	10 points
Written Exam #2	4/8	10 points
Harn Paragraph	4/22	5 points
Final Showing	4/22	10 points
Compare/ Contrast Paper	4/29	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	

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 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/>

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, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

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

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, Coordinator for the Young Dancer Workshop of North Central Florida, and Co-Director of Dance Theatre of Santa Fe.