

**DAA 2104 Sections: 1443/ 43BH (2 Credits)**

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

**Nadine McGuire Pavilion CON 006**

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

**Instructor Contact Information**

PROFESSOR: Melissa 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 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](mailto:UFL.EDU) email may be used when Canvas is not available.

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

**Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201608/all/theadanc.htm>**

**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.

### **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 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
- 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
- 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 – February 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 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 - April 21<sup>st</sup>**

- 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 historical/ accomplished Modern dance artist to the class. More information about the presentations can be found on Canvas. Presentations will be spread out between three dates: **January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup>, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

### 5. EVENT ATTENDANCE/ COMMUNITY IN MOTION (CIM) 15 points

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

**BA Dance Majors:** Attendance is required to all Unshowings, All SOTD Dance Performances and at least ONE outside performance. In addition, majors must participate in 2 CIM events.

**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 **April 29<sup>th</sup>**

#### **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.

\*Denotes Community In Motion Event

#### **Welcome Meeting for Dance Majors**

January 6th, 2020 at 6:30pm in G6

#### **\*BFA Showcase Dancer Audition**

January 9th, 2020 at 6:30pm in G6

#### **Audition for BFA Program**

January 24th, 2020 (All Day)

#### **Unshowings**

# 1 Unshowing- February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm in G6

# 2 Unshowing (Adjudication)– March 23rd, 2020 at 6:30pm in G6

#3 Unshowing (HMoD) – Friday, March 20, 2020 at 10:40 AM- 12:35PM in Studio G-6

# 4/Final – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm in G6

**Dance 2020**

February 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in SOTD Black Box

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in SOTD Black Box

**HMOD**

March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1pm to 4pm at Harn Museum

**Malpaso Dance Company**

March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm at Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall

**B.F.A Showcase**

\*March 27<sup>th</sup> – Load in for BFA Showcase

April 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and April 5<sup>th</sup> – Program A at 2pm and Program B at 4pm (\*strike following last performance)

**\*National Water Dance**

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, location in GNV to be determined

**UF Performing Arts Center Dance Events**

**National Ballet Theater of Odessa**

Romeo and Juliet

January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Invertigo Dance Theater- Formulae & Fairy Tales**

February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Dance Alive National Ballet- Loveland**

February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Paul Taylor Dance**

March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Dance Alive National Ballet- Athletes of God-**

April 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3 at 7:30pm

**Leela Dance Collective - SPEAK**

April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm

**Beyond Gainesville**

Any performance that appears on this list of Central Florida performances is approved.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tc5MTc3Ag2Ec-3VgyLYjh86O6-Yz9z7GFq7pWL-wXbi0/edit>

## **Grading Policy**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Technique Assessment	Continuous	25 points
Event Attendance	Continuous	15 points
Midterm Evaluation	2/27/20	25 points
Final Evaluation	4/21/20	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 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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Ufl.edu

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.