

West African Dance and Music

DAA 2331

Meeting Days – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Spring 2020

Professor Jason K. Aryeh

**Location: Studio G6
(1pm -3pm) E-mail: jaryeh@ufl.edu**

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an immersion into performance as a way of knowing, understanding, and experiencing culture, emphasizing cultural traditions, community outreach and diversity.

Performance and Culture: Transformations in West African Music and Dance: West African dance forms or styles are strong, virile and vital with the feeling of dynamic thrust and resistance. They are exceeding controlled, having the power to project the gentle wind or the raging storm. Ranging from the walk and all variations, the techniques of the West African dance embrace the leap, the hop, the skip, the jumps, falls of all descriptions and turns which balance the dancer at the most precarious angles with the ground. But more than any combination of steps, West African dance movements have urgency. The dancer has direction and purpose. The purpose is to communicate. This is why he can assume the proportion of an ant or giant. For the dancer and his people, celebrating the life of the community more than that of the individuals or couples, the Dance is Life!

The course will analyze;

- (a) How these many movements hybridized when crossing geographical, social and cultural boundaries within the context of West African dance forms/styles.
- (b) What is gained and lost learning West African Dance style.
- (c) How people from their ethnicities interpret music and dances they perform, that are not ethnically their own.
- (d) How are these dances used in constructing West African/Diaspora identities?

OBJECTIVES

- To cross the boundaries of music, dance, theatre, and culture in the creation of theatrical work exploring cultural traditions.
- To broaden your understanding of the social significance of performance in today's society through involvement in community outreach.
- To strive for an ever-growing proficiency in the repertory presented, emphasizing professionalism and performance.
- To search for an internal discipline, motivating you to challenge your limits, both physical and psychological, and to motivate others to do the same.
- To open yourself to creating a community of artists and audience members dedicated to cultural sharing.

Attire for Studio Work

Dancers work in comfortable clothing that allows the teacher/choreographer to be able to view their alignment while dancing. Blue jeans can generate bruises in the area of the lower spine due to the location of belt loops. Fitting T-shirts and stretch pants or "African pants or Lappers" permit freedom of movement. Please remove your socks once we start dancing to ensure safety while moving. Due to the slippery nature of the studio floor, it is important to have a firm grasp of the floor to avoid a slip and/or fall. When dancing, it is imperative to be comfortable, and therefore it is best to come prepared. Everyone is expected to participate in class.

Gum chewing, baseball caps, watches and jewelry are NOT allowed in this dance class for safety reasons.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES: Expectations:

Student will

- Attend classes regularly, be on time and ready to work for the entire class period.
- Maintain a professional working attitude.
- Participate in all in class activities, engaging fully both mentally and physically.
- Strive to improve individual progress by demonstrating increased strength, flexibility and an increased awareness of body alignment, timing and spatial pathways.
- Observe dance class etiquette (cell phone use, dress code, lateness policy etc...)
- Strive to apply given corrections and concepts to movement.

Attendance:

- Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- **Attendance is MANDATORY!**
- You must be present for all scheduled classes, plus required concerts, auditions, and/or events.

- **Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of points.**
- It is your responsibility to know your schedule.
- Check your UF email & the dance studio bulletin boards.
- INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT MEDICAL

DOCUMENTATION. If approved, CFA Incomplete Contract must be signed by the Director, Instructor, and Student.

Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early without the instructor's knowledge.
- There will be a 5 minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.
- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
 - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
 - Majors: Additional hours for Community in Motion Resources
 - <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmery)
 - <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
 - If unable to dance, with instructor permission, you may 'actively' observe one time for full credit.
- You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class.

Check with instructor for instructions.

- You may not receive credit for attendance if you arrive ten minutes into the scheduled class time.
- You may not use this time for napping or "study hall," otherwise it will be considered an absence.
- Injury/Illness: Please refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SOTD Handbook.
- UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up (travel time not included). Student is still responsible for material covered during their absence.
- All make-up assignments for excused absences to be completed **by the last day of classes this semester.**

Make-up Policy

*Students may complete no more than two (2) make-up classes by completing production hours. Production hours mean working backstage, front of house or in the scene shop for 3 hours per class missed or 6 hours maximum. All make-ups must receive prior approval. Please note that a make-up class only helps to maintain a student's grade in this course (i.e. to avoid grade being lowered from A to a B) but will not affect the total number of absences.

Production hours may also be completed for extra credit and are worth 1 point per hour worked with a maximum of six hours credited.

Injuries are special cases. If an injury occurs see/contact me immediately regarding absences, make-ups or possible withdrawal from the class. If you disappear without discussing your situation you will receive an F for this course. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor. A little discussion can save you a lot of grief!

Late assignments: Unless otherwise indicated, all homework assignments are due in class on the date listed on the syllabus. An essay received after the due date is late. A late assignment is penalized one full letter grade for each calendar day that it is late; assignments later than two calendar days are not accepted at all and earn an F.

The studio will be open at least 10 minutes prior to the start of class. Do not wait to be invited in. Use the extra time to warm up and prepare yourself for class.

Note: Class roll will be taken promptly at the scheduled class start time. A student who arrives after roll has already been taken will be marked late.

- The student may arrive late or observe twice (2 times) without penalty.
- Each additional late arrival will be equal to half an absence (or 2 lates = 1 absence).
- Leaving class early is also counted the same as arriving late to class.
- A student may be asked to observe class and take notes if they arrive 15 minutes late or more. This is up to the instructor's discretion. The student may not read, do homework for another course or sleep when observing. A student may be asked to leave the studio and will be marked absent if this occurs.
- Unless otherwise indicated, all homework assignments are due on the date listed on the syllabus. No late assignments are accepted unless a specific extension has been granted. Participation, Class Decorum: Students are expected to attend class each day with the required reading and/or writing assignments completed. No cell phones or electronic devices of any kind should make a sound during class.

Studio Rules of Conduct:

In effort to keep our dance space a peaceful, safe and clean environment for our students we ask that you observe the following:

- No gum- this is also for safety reasons since we don't want dancers choking.
- No talking, food or quick pick-me-ups during class. However you may keep water bottles inside the studio for hydration provided they have caps to prevent spills.
- Turn off all cell phones before entering the studio. Please make this a habit. All phone calls must take place outside of the studio and NEVER during class time. If you have an emergency situation you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class. Ringing cell phones, texting etc...Are disruptive to classroom activity. Please be responsible.

Final Course Grade:

Your final grade is determined by your performance on a number of different tasks:

Community Outreach	50%
Dance Concert Attendance	15%

Attendance/Participation	35%
TOTAL	100%

Letter grades translate to percentages as follows:

Grades

95 – 100	A
90 – 94	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
65 – 69	D+
60 – 64	D
59 and below	F

Semester Calendar:

UnShowing Dates / UF Dance Performances

Welcome Back Dance Meeting for all Dance Majors - Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30pm-8:00pm

Audition - Thursday, January 9, 2020 - Spring 2018 BFA Showcase (arrive 6:15PM) 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

First UnShowing - Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Studio G-6

The Harn Museum of Dance (HMod 2.0) UnShowing – Friday, March 20, 2020 at 10:40 AM-12:35PM

Adjudication Showing: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:30pm – until finish in Studio G-6

Dance 2020: February 7 -8 at 7:30 PM, February 9 at 2:00PM, February 11 - 15 at 7:30 PM and February 16 at 2:00PM

The Harn Museum of Dance (HMod 2.0) - Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM - 4:00PM

March 27th – Load in for BFA Showcase at 9:00AM in G-6

Spring 2020 BFA Showcase - Wednesday, April 1 (Program A at 7:30pm)

Thursday, April 2 (Program B at 7:30pm)

Friday, April 3 (Program A at 7:30pm)

Saturday, April 4 Community in Motion Performance (2:00P)*

Saturday, April 4 (Program B at 7:30pm)

Sunday, April 5 (Program A at 2:00pm)
Sunday, April 6 (Program B at 4:00pm) (strike following last performance)

*Free Performance -First come first serve basis *

Final UnShowing : Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:30 - 8:30PM in Studio G-6

National Water Dance

April 18th at 4pm, location in GNV to be determined

UFPA Dance Performances

National Ballet Theater of Odessa

Romeo and Juliet

January 8th at 7:30pm

Invertigo Dance Theater

Formulae & Fairy Tales

February 5th at 7:30pm

Dance Alive National Ballet

Loveland

February 14th at 7:30pm

Paul Taylor Dance

March 6th at 7:30pm

Dance Alive National Ballet

Athletes of God

April 2nd at 7:30pm

April 3rd at 7:30pm

Leela Dance Collective

SPEAK

April 21st at 7:30pm

Santa Fe College

Malpaso is performing at SF on Saturday, March 21st at 7:30pm. They are performing Tabula Rasa and a new work by Mats Ek, among others.

Here's a link to tickets: <https://tickets.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&w=cc5d3f5d01e45efac6a75aaac3c774f8>

UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653

UF Performing Arts (Phillips Center) #: (352) 392-2787
SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181