

BFA Senior Project (Choreography) Syllabus
DAN 4959
Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:

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*Email Policy: Use ONLY your UFL.EDU email account for e-mail correspondence related to class: your name & class must appear in the subject line of all correspondence.

Office Hours: All office hours through Zoom. Email for appointment.

Office Phone: 352-273-0516 Main Office

Course activities and assignments will happen in a remote learning format via Zoom.

**Please note, this syllabus is subject to change. **

Showcase Director

Elizabeth Johnson, in collaboration with the BFA Senior Project participants.

Senior Project (Choreographic) Summary

The dance program has provided the student with an exceptional and supportive opportunity/experience that requires them to combine her/his skills as a choreographer, producer, and writer to achieve success; a culmination of the training you have received in the program that has prepared you for this capstone course. The focus of the Senior Project is the creative process/research behind an original dance that will be adjudicated for inclusion in the fall showcase. The actual work is to be a *group piece* (usually four or more performers), with a running time of no more than five-minutes dance film (final performance time). You work *as a class* to produce the showcase simultaneously while you work on your creative project. (Please note that all works adjudicated for the showcase will be performed together in the venue established by the dance program/director.) Finally, you will articulate your creative research in a thesis-style paper. You will be assigned a mentor/advisor by the dance area.

The emphasis is on creative process/research. It is important to recognize that even with the best planning and creative determination, some projects may not be adjudicated (accepted) into the showcase. This does not indicate failure of the course. To the contrary, depending on how you utilize the situation and continue to contribute to the showcase and finish your writing process, it is an opportunity to grow and mature as an artist and scholar.

Objectives of the Senior Project

- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to create an original dance (group piece w/guidelines)
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to collaborate within a group of your artistic peers to produce a showcase of quality and substance
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to participate in the UnShowing process to receive feedback from the UF dance community
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to work with their faculty mentor(s) to help you explore the full potential of their choreographic voice
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to finalize and articulate their creative process through the paper

Casting Guidelines and Responsibilities

- All performing members of your cast are required to be UF students and enrolled in an approved UF SoTD dance course. Course must be a technique class, so courses (alone) like Dance Comp, Yoga, etc. will not count.
- It is up to the choreographer to insure that your dancers are only in a total of three (3) dances per concert (not program).
- It is the choreographer's responsibility to inform/remind their cast of all UnShowing times, tech times, call times, show times, load-in and strike responsibilities, as well as rules for attendance of warm-up, notes, etc.
- Choreographer should also be sure their cast has a clear calendar for the performance, as we will not make individual adjustments to the performance order or schedule.

Evaluation

<i>Points</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>
<i>(deductions only)</i>	Attendance	Director
20 pts	Creative Leadership	Mentor
20 pts	Producing Assignment	Director & SP Class
10 pts	Showcase Overall	Director
50 pts	Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper	Mentor
<i>100 pts</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grade submitted by Mentor</i>

Attendance

Attend **ALL** Monday night meetings before or after UnShowings for BFA Showcase via Zoom. You are also must attend the Production meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 4:20-5:00pm.

Creative Leadership

Points are given for the preparedness of the choreographer to implement her/his choreography, how well the concept was communicated to the dancers, and how well the choreographer guided their dance through the rehearsal process into performance. It can also reflect the quality of communication the choreographer had with their mentor.

Producing Assignment

Each person will be assigned a role in producing of your showcase. Even if you are working jointly with another senior, you are still responsible for the successful completion of the assignment related to the successful running of the show. Ultimately everyone is responsible for getting the job done.

Assignments may include:

- Costumes
- Technology Czar
- Tech Czar
- Poster/PR
- Program

Showcase Overall

These are points given by the director for overall demeanor towards the fulfillment of the production through the beginning of the process through close of the BFA Showcase. It can reflect the preparedness of the choreographer through the production process, such as techs, costuming deadlines, sound deadlines, etc.

Schedule Fall 2020 (STC)

- **Monday, August 31 - Welcome Back Meeting Dance Area Students & Faculty at 6:30PM-8:00PM**
- **Wednesday, September 2 - Audition 6:30 - 8:30PM via Zoom**
- **Thursday, September 3 - Audition 6:30 - 8:30PM via Zoom**
- **Monday, October 12- UnShowing #1 via Zoom**
- **Wednesday, October 21- Production Meeting 4:20-5:00pm via Zoom**
- **Monday, November 9 – UnShowing #2 via Zoom**
- **Please keep Monday evenings free until UnShowing schedule to be finalized 6:30p-8:30pm via Zoom**
- **Monday, December 7- Final UnShowing**

**Fall 2020 BFA Showcase – November 19 – November 21, 2020 at 7:30PM;
November 22, 2020 at 2:00PM**

Production Schedule Link (Schedule to be finalized prior to the start of techs):

<https://pages.propared.com/p/filters/18341/37AyJXoP0I7n3GUzSTVKYNsjhUMPXVKN3xv0NQnBE>

Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper

The Senior Project paper is the final phase of your Senior Project choreographic project; the articulation of your creative research. It is expected that you will use the following format in the writing of your Senior Project paper. (The format is the same that you will utilize for your research paper in Dance History next semester.)

Fall 2020 Paper Deadlines*:

By November 6 (Friday): You will have initiated a conference with your assigned advisor about paper by this date. Complete outline, abstract draft and finalized bibliography due to assigned mentor/reader.

November 20 (Friday): First draft due to assigned advisor 5:00PM.

December 4 (Friday): Second draft due to assigned advisor and any other mentor by 5:00PM.

Third draft: If your advisor needs further edits, this would be accomplished during a time-line established between you and your advisor.

December 11 (Friday), 2020: Final Paper turned in electronic copy to mentor and e-copy and presentable **hard-copy to** Dance Coordinator by 5:00PM.

*Advisor may discuss any alterations on deadlines with you due to extenuating circumstances. If there are changes to the final deadline, please advise Dance Coordinator.

RESEARCH PAPER REQUIRED FORMAT

NOTE: USE MLA STYLE GUIDELINES TO WRITE PAPER

*A GREAT and EASY-TO-USE site for **MLA STYLE GUIDELINES**:*

<http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/>

MLA Formatting and Style Guide

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Please note for them that for the paper you will have additional requirements beyond MLA, including title page, acknowledgments. etc.

- **Title Page**, with title of paper, your name, date submitted, class name and number, and professor (no page number) See:
<http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/how-to-cite-a-scholarly-project-mla/>

- **Dedication** (roman numeral ii)
- **Acknowledgements** (roman numeral iii)
- **Abstract** succinct overview of the paper (Write—or rewrite—*after* you have completed your paper) (roman numeral iv). An abstract summarizes the paper and is used by prospective readers to decide whether or not to read the entire text. Make it compelling and powerful reading (100-250 words maximum).
- **Table of Contents** (roman numeral v). Use exact title of section on left and 1st page number of the section on right: include page numbers for dedication, acknowledgments, abstract, and section headers (but do not cite page numbers for title page or Table of Contents).
- One-page **Introduction** to topic (pages 1 and 2)
 - *Problem and Purpose Statement: who or what are you proposing to discover, challenge, understand, illuminate. Purpose of paper and what you seek to achieve in this writing.*
 - *Rationale: what is important about this exploration? What contribution does it make to the field of dance?*
 - *Personal Statement: Why is the subject important to you? Is there a personal connection to the subject; or a connection you would like to make?*
- Two-page **Discussion of the Literature** and other resources you researched (written, visual, media) (pages 3 and 4)
 - Demonstrate your knowledge of what has been done before related to this topic.
- One-page describing the **Scope of Project** and its parameters (page 5)
 - What limits did you specifically impose to create a manageable project?
 - What significant events or discoveries occurred in the process to further define the scope of the project—for example, changed course, specifics of time management, process issues, translation, limited primary resources, limited secondary resources, limited geographical access).
- Two-page **Methodology** section describing the research process you undertook (pages 6 and 7)
 - Detail ideas and approaches showing WHAT you actually did.
 - You may include HOW you made unique connections across (or unique use of) your selected “literature” (written, visual, media, etc.) and questions it prompted.
- Four-page narrative on your **Inquiry** (pages 8, 9, 10 and 11)
 - This is the “body” of the paper where you unfold the story/meaning/life of the research.
 - Explore and examine the themes that emerged in the work, the ideas within them.
 - This is where you will use your theory and data entries and other findings.

- One-page **Conclusion** which is a reflection on the smaller and the larger picture of your work (page 12)
 - The critical findings, results, or conclusions of the research, including strengths and weaknesses.
 - What further questions do you have or what directions for research
 - What are the *larger* implications of your findings?
- Visual Resources (page number 13, etc.)
- Works Cited in **MLA** (Note you will use simple in-text citations as per **MLA**¹; place extra explanatory notes in endnotes) (page numbers...)

(Depending on your approach to your creative research, as well as your GPA, it is possible that this Senior Project paper can be converted into a research paper that will put you in good stead for graduation with high or highest honors should your GPA warrant such recognition. Your Dance History paper could also be used. This usually requires adapting or reconfiguring a portion of your creative research into a focused research topic. Typically, the Senior Project paper, by itself, would not be acceptable for this level of consideration. High/Highest honors papers also require a faculty mentor, as well as a second reader.)

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

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 at

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

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/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

¹ For helpful information see the following:

<http://cooperseng101.wordpress.com/syllabus-part-2-course-outline/mla-guidelines-for-quoting/>

GETTING HELP:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, 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

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/201601/all/theadanc.htm>