

DAA 2331 (19G4/6725)
WEST AFRICAN DANCE AND MUSIC TECHNIQUE

Fall 2020
T, R 5:10 PM -7:00 PM
Online
2 Credits

Barakissa Coulibaly
Ph: 352-339-8749
Office Hours by Appointment
E-mail: bcoulibaly@arts.ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an immersion into performance that focuses on development and exploration of traditional West African dance techniques. Students will explore the traditions, song, music, language, and dance of the people of Ivory Coast, Guinea and Mali. Students will experience culture, emphasize cultural traditions, engage in community outreach and diversity. Students will learn and perform traditional dances that celebrate rites of passage, courtship and healing. Emphasis is on rhythmic movement combinations and the influence of mind-body connection. Class may be repeated with of change of content up to a maximum of 6 credits

This course is delivered fully online.

PLEASE NOTE!

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate proficiency in West African dance movements
- To demonstrate an understanding of body coordination and how to move the body expressively
- To cross the boundaries of music, dance, theatre, and culture in the creation of theatrical work exploring cultural traditions
- To demonstrate mastery of West African dance vocabulary
- 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 and confidence, 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
- To become more confident with his/her own moving body and show a willingness to engage and improvise

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **FULL** Participation as indicated in classes, assignments and activities
- **FULL** participation as indicated in dance and all class activities

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course
- Attendance is **MANDATORY!**
- You must be present for all scheduled zoom classes/activities.
- Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of points.
- **INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.** If approved, CFA Incomplete Contract must be signed by the Director, Instructor, and Student.

Hybrid Attendance Policy--Studio Courses

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Students who elect to enroll in a hybrid course are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e. a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to “attend” all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time.

For classes that meet two times a week:

Students can take 2 absences with no penalty; no documentation is required for the first 2 absences as they are automatically excused. If the third absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the final grade. Excused or unexcused, on the third absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course. If the fourth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the final grade. Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion and will be made available through virtual classes or online assignments.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Make-up Policy

- In the event of more than 2 absences, please advise instructor in-advance when unable to attend class; make-up assignment will be provided for make-up points
 - Student must provide instructor with notice prior to absence (in the event of more than 2 absences)
 - (after 2 absences) Unexcused absences will result in a loss of class participation points as stated above

DRESS

Please wear exercise or dance clothing that is feasible to move in such as: free moving shorts, sweatpants, tank tops, etc . Everyone must be barefooted for class (some dance shoes may be appropriate). No hats. No jeans or denim pants. It is advised to not wear loose jewelry during class.

Please see below for recommendations for traditional West African dance clothing

West African dance clothing recommendations options:

Lapa or Sarong (traditionally worn by women): A lapa is a traditional West African garment that can be made by using 2-3 yards of fabric tied around the waist to form a skirt. Shorts, leggings, yoga or sweat pants must be worn underneath lapas and sarongs. T-shirts or tank tops preferred with sports bra.

OR

Shorts/loose fitting athletic pants (traditionally worn by men): shorts or loose fitting athletic pants paired with a t-shirt or tank top. Traditionally men wear Socatos, loose droop-seated pants tied by a drawstring.

Please do not chew gum as you are taking class.

EVALUATION

Final grades determined by points:

Class Participation	43.5 points
Final Group Project	21.5 points
Dance Solo Video	7 points
Rhythm & Region Quizzes	14 points
Discussions (2)	14 points
Total Possible Points:	100 points

A 95-100	A/B 90-94
B 85-89	B/C 80-84
C 75-79	C/D 70-74
	D 65-69
	F 64 or less

CLASS ACTIVITIES/ ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Class Participation:** Students are required to attend each class. Attendance will be taken each class period, and students receive 2 points for full participation in each class.
2. **Rhythm & Region Quizzes:** Students will complete a total of 7 quizzes throughout the semester. All quizzes are 2 questions and vary in formats from multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching etc. Content of the quizzes is based on the traditional West African rhythms, movement and history discussed in class. Quizzes will be due on assigned Thursdays by 11:59PM.
3. **West African Dance Solo Video:** All students will be required to submit **one video** of themselves dancing a West African Dance Solo, using any of the movements taught during class time. Students must perform a minimum of 4 dance movement taught in

class. Videos must be submitted via mp4 format. (Videos submitted will only be reviewed by the instructor). Rubric and instruction uploaded on canvas.

4. **Group Project:** Students will be assigned to groups of 5 or 6 and complete 1 group project. Students will be Assigned 1 West African country to research and complete a group PowerPoint presentation on the country's culture, customs and traditions. Each student will contribute 1 slide to the PowerPoint presentation. Only one group member has to submit the presentation via Canvas. Rubric and instructions uploaded on canvas.

CLASS SCHEDULE

9/1	Module 1 Introduction to Class & Review of Syllabus Introduction to West African Dance/Music movement and technique. Explore Connection between drum and West African Dance
9/3	Introduction to Djansa Dance Technique from Ivory coast/ Guinea Assign groups for Final projects
9/8	Djansa Dance Technique <i>Discussion 1 Due</i>
9/10	Djansa Dance Technique
9/15	Djansa Dance Technique
9/17	Djansa Dance Technique <i>Quiz 1 Due</i>
9/22	Djansa Dance Technique
9/24	Djansa Dance Technique
9/29	Djansa Dance Technique
10/1	Module 2

	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique Introduction to Temate Dance Technique and rhythm (from Ivory Coast) Quiz 2 Due
10/6	Tématé Dance Technique
10/8	Tématé Dance Technique
10/13	Tématé Dance Technique
10/15	Tématé Dance Technique Quiz 3 Due
10/20	Tématé Dance Technique
10/22	Tématé Dance Technique
10/27	Tématé Dance Technique
10/29	Introduction to Djansa Dance Technique from Mali Quiz 4 Due
11/3	Module 3 Debadon/Soli Dance Technique Discussion 2 Due
11/5	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique
11/10	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique
11/12	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique Quiz 5 Due Dance Solo Video Due
11/17	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique
11/19	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique
11/24	Debadon/Soli Dance Technique Quiz 6 Due

11/26	No Class
12/1	Module 4 Technique combining all traditional dances learned Debadon/Soli (Ivory coast/ Guinea) Tématé (Ivory Coast) Djansa (Mali)
12/3	Technique combining all traditional dances learned Debadon/Soli (Ivory coast/ Guinea) Tématé (Ivory Coast) Djansa (Mali) Quiz 7 Due Group Project Due
12/8	Last day of Class Celebration

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. The instructor is the only person that views your written comments. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

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 (source: <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 in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

Getting Help:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- (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

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.