

DAA 2104: BASIC MODERN / CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICE

FALL 2020 | MWF | 10:40a-12:10p | SOC 1450 (O'Connell Center Orange and Blue Room)



instructor: Xan Burley (pronouns: she/her)
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office hours: Tue 10-11am / Fri 1-3pm / by appointment
office hours zoom link: on Canvas
lab fees: <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>

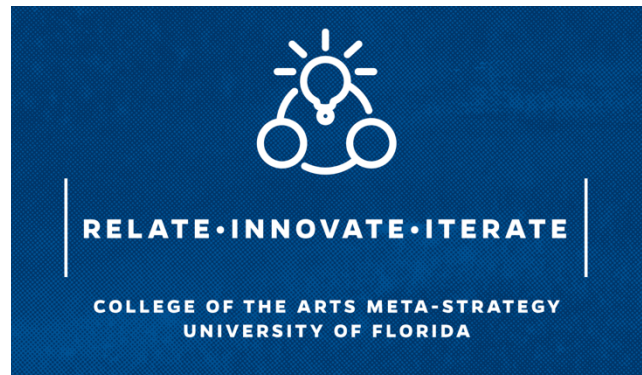


COLLEGE OF THE ARTS: MISSION

The University of Florida College of the Arts intends to be a transformative community, responding to and generating paradigmatic shifts in the arts and beyond. We do so by:

- ⇒ Embracing the complexity of our evolving human experience and seeking to empower our students and faculty to shape that experience fearlessly through critical study, creative practice, and provocation.
- ⇒ Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
- ⇒ Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
- ⇒ Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for equity on local and global levels.

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS META-STRATEGY



COURSE INTRODUCTION + DESCRIPTION

This class is designed to broaden your experience in beginning level contemporary dance through physical practice, readings, observations, and movement exploration. In this class, we will activate our dancing bodies through improvisation, technical exercises, and choreographed phrase work. We will engage with our awareness of weight, employing momentum as a tool for both precise balance and fluid abandon. Through articulation and extension of the lower and upper body we will refine our capacity for efficient full-bodied movement. Phrase-work will have components of musicality and rhythm, qualitative specificity, and performance skill-building. We will enrich our understanding of dance practice through collaboration, deep listening, and rigor.

I will lead a movement practice and course of study influenced and informed by the following:

- My training background in modern/post-modern/contemporary dance, including artists, choreographers, and teachers that have impacted my dancing.
- My creative research as a choreographer and my work with my partner Alex Springer.
- My training in other forms of dance including improvisation, contact improvisation/partnering, hip hop, and ballet.
- My expertise and my growing body of knowledge.
- **YOU! What you bring to our practice is essential and I will respond to your needs and interests to the best of my ability.**

COMMUNICATION...is key

We will use Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) as our home-base for communicating, compiling assignments, and collaborating. Zoom meetings will also be listed there. In addition, please only use your **UFL.EDU** for any email correspondence. Please be sure to **communicate** with me as the semester progresses. Knowing how you're doing in this class helps me support you.

**This syllabus and course content is subject to change based on the community's needs and interests. You will inevitably define the direction we take with the class. With that said, I invite you to stay flexible as we learn about one another.*

COURSE VALUES + GOALS

In this course, we will:

- Learn about contemporary dance and experience it personally.
- Develop fundamental technique and performance skills.
- Utilize anatomical and kinesthetic awareness for the reliable execution of movement.
- Improve upon alignment, strength, flexibility, range of motion, balance, and use of space.
- Practice picking up material quickly.
- Explore the expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- Collaborate with each other.

- Examine the role of dance in our current world and develop an informed view of the interaction of art and society in the 20/21st Century
- Empower the person/dancer/thinker/choreographer in each student.

As the facilitator of this course, I will:

- Listen to and center your needs as an individual.
- Create opportunities for you to grow, improve, and be challenged.
- Ask you to be open to new and different ways of moving, thinking, and creating.
- Respect your values, expertise, and boundaries.
- Expand your knowledge of Contemporary Dance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES + DEFINITIONS

Dance that is **contemporary**—of the “now”—is a practice that builds on current, relevant, and innovative methods of expressive embodiment. Contemporary dance is an evolving, fluid, and individually specific field and form. When practiced with care, dance can build upon one’s confidence, anatomical awareness, strength, flexibility, self-discipline, and sense of belonging. These tools are useful in and out of the studio.

Practice, for me, is an ongoing state of being in which tremendous growth is possible. In service of fostering your and my own growth, I wish to emphasize that our *practice* is a reaching for *cultivation* rather than mastery. To that end, we will work with the rigor, creativity, playfulness, and attention to detail that our practice calls for.

Hybrid learning gives us the incredible opportunity to be in the studio together while maintaining safe numbers in the room. When you are in the studio, you will have a taped-out square to dance in. Though we are limited, this is an opportunity for experimentation and refining of skills. When you are not in the studio, you will take class from another location through Zoom. From time to time, we will meet all together on Zoom for community-building, discussion, and movement practice.

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In order for us all to have a transformative, energetic, and generous experience, we will agree to *participate* in creating a respectful environment. We do so by:

- Showing up for yourself and others. Do your best to **be on time** and don’t leave early unless otherwise excused.
- Listening fully to each other at all times.
- Taking time to reflect before responding or reacting.
- Demonstrating personal motivation and lifting up those around us.
- Asking questions and contributing to class discussion.
- Collaborating equitably.
- Showing gratitude for the class musician.
- **Communicating!** Please email me with *any and all* concerns, questions, and needs as they arise.
- **YOUR SUGGESTIONS!**

CULTURE OF CARE

“Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent.” --Charlie Mackesy

We are all navigating a complex and uncertain time. Each person is experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic differently and comfort levels vary. I ask that you **commit to a culture of care** as we work together. This means respecting our policies for health and safety as well as boundaries set by your peers. The COVID-19 Appendix outlines in detail the guidelines we will follow. In addition, and even more critical, is how we will practice care in our **anti-racist** efforts. Anti-racism is an ongoing process that I am committed to as a Contemporary dance artist, educator, and person. This will take shape in our class in different ways and I invite you to be open, vulnerable, and patient with me. I ask that you bring a **radical empathy** and hospitality to class—listening, supporting, and being compassionate is essential. Please come to me with any questions, concerns, or needs.

SAFE STUDIO ENVIRONMENT

Proper Attire: Masks are required. You should come dressed ready for class and able to move freely and comfortably. Long pants are best and knee pads are highly suggested. Please wear clean socks that give you some traction. It is recommended that you do not wear jewelry that will impede your ability to move or put you or others at physical risk.

Water + Food: Be sure to bring your water bottle, full, into your box for class. Make sure you eat a well-balanced meal or snack before and after class. Please do not eat while in class or chew gum.

Device Usage: The studio is a place for focus and engagement, a precious time to be screen-free. Please leave your cell phones, tablets, computers, iPads, etc. in your bags and on silent unless we are using them for classwork. If you need to be reachable by phone for any reason, let me know in advance of class.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS + GRADING PROCEDURES

(1) CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH + DEVELOPMENT (25%)

The 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. In addition, the student demonstrates the ability to think critically about their movement practice.
- ⇒ *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) PARTICIPATION + INTEGRITY OF YOUR PRACTICE (10%)

Your full participation and the integrity of your practice involves actively engaging with class material. Be generous, inquisitive, and motivated. **You will be evaluated in this area based on your participation in creating a respectful learning environment** (see above).

(3) PROJECTS + READINGS (25%)

The instructions for projects and readings will be available on Canvas.

(4) TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT (15%)

I will assess your development in the areas of alignment, strength, stamina, spatial awareness, accurate execution of movement material, phrase material retention, ascertaining and implementing detail, and overall technical improvement.

(5) ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT (15%)

Your development as an artist is of great value to me. To assess your artistic growth, I will look for observable exploration of expressivity in movement, qualitative articulation, individuality, creative problem-solving, critical thinking and processing, and openness in collaboration.

(6) EVENT ATTENDANCE (10%)

In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required at the following events plus 1 outside professional show (**all virtual**). You will provide proof of attendance to me within one week after viewing the production. For the additional professional event that is required, together we will compile a list of free, available performances online from which you will be able to choose. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well. Required events are:

- **Welcome Meeting:** Monday August 31st / 6-7:30pm
- **UnShowings:** Mondays Oct 12th, Nov 9th, Dec 7th @ 6:30pm
- **BFA Showcase Performance:** November 19th, 20th, and 21st @ 7:30pm and Nov 22nd @ 2pm
- **Agbedidi:** December 4th and 5th @ 7:30pm and Dec 6th at 2pm

PERCENTAGES

Continuous Assessment of Growth and Development	25%
Participation + Integrity of Practice	10%
Projects + Readings	25%
Technical Development	15%
Artistic Development	15%
TOTAL	100%

LETTER GRADES

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	59 and below

[Link to the university grades and grading policies](#)

Grading Guidelines for Dance Technique Courses*

- **A or A- (Excellent):** The student's work demonstrates technical advancement that excels and pushes results beyond what is requested. Excellent is for students who demonstrate an enthusiasm and commitment to learning and a willingness to take movement risks and integrate corrections. Excellent students demonstrate their best at all times and exceptional growth in the objectives of the course. An excellent student is capable of dancing at a legibly higher level at the end of the semester than when the semester began, working to the best of their ability, class after class.
- **B+, B, B- (Good):** The student's work fulfills the expected goals indicated in the syllabus, handouts, and in-class instructions. Good is for students who do their work consistently and with care, show dedication and a willingness to take new steps, show concentration and strong work habits. These students demonstrate increased accomplishment of some skills during the semester.
- **C+, C, C- (Average):** The student's work fulfills most of the expected goals indicated in the syllabus, handouts, or in-class instructions. Average is for students who do their work and actively participate in class, but rarely push themselves to a new level. Even though present in class, a C student does not command to be seen. Having accomplished some skills during the semester, both the student and the teacher know that their work could be better. Work habits are inconsistent. An average student can accomplish more.
- **D+, D, D- (Poor):** The student's work fulfills few of the expected goals and shows little understanding of the process. Poor is for students who have not done their work regularly. Lacking the necessary energy or rigor for the course, this student shows very little improvement. Consistently coming late or often absent, a poor student is not interested in improving their dancing.
- **E (Failing):** The student's work fails to demonstrate an understanding of the goals or the process involved. Failing is for students who miss many classes, are regularly tardy, and/or who sit out so much that there is no basis from which to grade. Failing students regularly display disinterest in the material as presented by the instructor and/or lack mature work habits and therefore achieve little success class after class.

**Developed in part by Jan Erkert, University of Illinois*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FALL 2020:

Aug 31	6-7:30p	Dance Area Welcome Meeting
Sept 8	6:30-8:30p	Faculty Auditions
Sept 9 + 10	6:30-8:30p	Fall BFA 2020 Showcase Auditions
Oct 9	TBA	BFA Program Audition
Oct 12	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #1
Nov 9	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #2
Nov 19-21	7:30p	BFA Showcase
Nov 22	2p	BFA Showcase
Dec 4 & 5	7:30p	Agbedidi
Dec 6	2p	Agbedidi
Dec 7	6:30-8:30p	Final UnShowing

COVID-19 APPENDIX

***If class is suspended or cancelled, we will still meet on Zoom during our regularly scheduled class time.*

HYBRID COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY

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 three times a week:

Students can take **3 absences with no penalty**; no documentation is required for the first 3 absences as they are automatically excused. If the fourth 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.

DANCE PROGRAM FALL 2020 COVID PROTOCOLS:

Excerpted and adapted from: *Coronavirus SoTD Fall 2020 Class & Production Practices* from Jenny Goelz and Peter Carpenter

For hybrid/in person courses, protocols for all faculty and students should be as such:

- Wear a facemask or cloth face covering during all indoor/in person classes... If activities are located outdoors, then masks are only necessary when individuals are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance. Comfort levels vary and no one in the SoTD community is required to refrain from wearing a mask under any outdoor/indoor circumstance.
- A properly worn facemask covers both nose and mouth. The fitted N95 mask is most effective and disposable surgical, and multi-layered cloth masks have also been tested to be effective. (Article: <https://olv.duke.edu/news/researchers-created-a-test-to-determine-which-masks-are-the-least-effective/>. Duke University published study here: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083>)
- **If a student attempts to attend class without a facemask, as per UF protocol, the instructor will ask the student to wear a mask or leave the classroom/studio. If the student refuses to wear a mask, the instructor will report the student to the Student Affairs COVID-19 Education Office.**
- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands at the top of each class in shared spaces. Re-sanitization is needed if individuals use restroom facilities, touch their face, sneeze, or cough.
- Stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). **The culture of hiding illness or the "show must go on" mentality must be avoided.**
- Students will be asked to sanitize and strike individual chairs, ballet barres, etc. Instructor of record will specify protocols for each room cleaning supplies will be provided.
- Immediately dispose of personal trash in appropriate bags/containers. Do not leave tissues, paper towels, bandaids, tape, water bottles, or any other personal refuse on the floors or in the space.
- For everyone's understanding: **avoid touch/skin to skin contact in staging, choreography, costume fittings, and during other class and production activities.** In our field, it is hard to refrain but for the safety of others and ourselves, until it's safer, the most loving thing we can do is continue to provide ample distance to lessen viral spread.
- Students are asked to depart class promptly at the end of class and avoid lingering following outdoor and indoor rehearsals. Instructors of record will provide specific class protocols for arriving, departing class, and class breaks.
- Bring shelf-stable lunches and snacks to enjoy on your breaks outside. **The SoTD Breakfast Room, break area in the Costume Studio, SoTD Atrium, and studio space hallways are no longer available (no Dance Area carpet).** There are food options for purchase in the Reitz Union and there will be some limited available study areas in the lower Atrium lobby level.
- Class schedules will be affected by the need to lengthen breaks to air out rooms, encourage hydration (it is hard to keep hydrated with a mask on), and allow adequate time for socially distanced bathroom breaks/hand washing. Staggered breaks will be avoided to ensure that all involved are able to have a moment of rest.

For in studio hybrid technique courses, movement limitations include:

- No lying down
- No rolling
- No traveling across the floor
- 10' x 10' (or similar) taped areas will delineate the student's area of personal space. All movement must stay within these limits.

Class attire and preparation:

- SoTD Dressing rooms are not accessible. For studio classes in McGuire, please come to class dressed to dance. In the O'Connell building and other alternative spaces, public bathrooms are available but should not be considered alternative dressing rooms. All use of public bathrooms should remain socially distanced with masks as per UF mandate.
- Masks are to be worn for the entirety of the class. If masks need to be removed for any reason, please exit the studio/class area and find the nearest *out door* space.
- Intact socks (no holes) should be worn in technique classes in substitution for ballet shoes or bare feet. NO street shoes in any dance spaces.

STUDENT RESOURCES

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)
- *On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website.](#)
- *University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

UF POLICIES + STUDENT RESOURCES

ONLINE PRIVACY STATEMENT:

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.

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. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) 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.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.

Syllabi are posted here: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

