

DAA 1000: Fundamentals of Dance Technique (3 Credits)

University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance

SPRING 2021

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, faculty, and staff 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.

SYLLABUS

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

PROFESSOR: Melissa Brenner mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu*

Virtual Office Location: Zoom link shared on Canvas

Virtual Office Hours: MW 1pm-1:55pm; T/TH 1pm-3pm; Fridays by appointment

Office Phone: 352-273-0500 Main Office

*Email Policy: Please use your **CANVAS** email account for email correspondence related to class. UFL.EDU email may be used when Canvas is not available.

CLASS MEETING LOCATIONS

Mondays- Virtual Classroom (Zoom link shared on Canvas)

Wednesdays- Orange and Blue Room at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

CLASS MEETING TIMES

Section 22A6 (12852) 8:55am-10:25am

Section 6091 (12853) 10:40am-12:10pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to modern, ballet, and jazz dance. (H) 3 credits. *Fundamentals of Dance* is designed to provide accessibility to the world of dance for all students, novice or pre-professional. Along with learning the rudiments of the dance techniques, you will discover the rich heritage, challenging discipline, fertile aesthetic, as well as your place in the vast spectrum of dance. There is truth in advertising – as once you are successful in this class, these fundamentals become the basis for achieving excellence in higher levels and making informed connections with how this art interacts with your life. The following objectives provide the direction for the course:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide a student with the history, basic techniques, and contemporary references relevant to accessing a basic understanding of dance.
- Enhance the mind/body connection through the application of sound biomechanical principles as they relate to dance, such as practicing proper alignment, learning basic human anatomy, and learning of alternative approaches to movement study. This knowledge will be directly applied to the various styles of dance learned in class.
- Practice elements of performing and explore performance quality, discovering your own potential and personal style while developing your kinesthetic memory
- Experience, discuss and write about dance performances

TEXTBOOK

A booklet of materials prepared especially for this course will be available free on Canvas.

Direct Link is: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance/downloads/syllabi.aspx>

CANVAS AND ZOOM

DAA1000 is facilitated through Canvas (e-learning) and Zoom (virtual classroom). DAA1000 students must have access to Canvas, reliable internet, and a web cam or smart phone with camera to successfully complete the course. Zoom links can be found in Canvas.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS**

- Students will need to be seen via webcam or smartphone during the entire class period.
- Students will need to be heard via computer audio or smartphone audio.
- Students are expected to be on time and on Zoom for the entire class period.
- Students should be dressed appropriately for class.
- Students should use appropriate professional language.
- Students should remove all distractions while in class. i.e. silence phones, stay off phones, limit interactions as much as possible with people and animals in your home, be mindful of noises, do not play music, etc.
- Should noises or distraction enter the students' classroom space for a short period, students should mute their microphone. A short cut to do this is often the spacebar.
- Just as in the classroom: In order to be truly present in class you must be participating in class via physical participation, feedback, questions, discussion topics, and so forth. If you do not, the professor can mark you as tardy or absent.

****Please talk to the instructor as soon as possible if there are concerns with any of the above "virtual classroom" requirements. ****

VIRTUAL CLASS/ RECORDINGS

If necessary, some class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who may have missed class. 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 let the professor know. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

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:

UF Absence Policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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 virtual classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when class begins you are marked late.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2020-21 Handbook (SoTD website) and included in this syllabus.

ABSENCES

Students can take 2 absences with no penalty. Documentation is not required for the first absence as it will be automatically excused. Each absence, after two, will be a 5-point deduction from the final grade, unless made up. (See make-up policy)

Note: 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

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for more than 2 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.

DRESS POLICY

- Attire which is form fitting & suitable for movement (Tights, Leotards, Leggings, Yoga pants, form fitted sweatpants)
- No oversized clothing
- Shorts are not recommended
- Hair should to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches

Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent from class or points deducted at instructor's discretion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (50 points)

Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and to contribute in group discussions. If a student is disruptive during class (talking, providing negative energy, or simply not participating) they will lose participation points. These points can be deducted at the teacher's discretion.

Learning Community

As we cultivate our classroom practice, we will critically evaluate our thoughts, opinions, and assumptions. As a learning community, I ask that we collectively invest in an environment in which all class members feel empowered to physically and intellectually take risks, ask questions, experiment, and grow. Dance practices frequently intersect with the difficult and at times violent pasts and presents of inequalities related to race, gender, sexuality, class and ability. Feelings of discomfort can at times accompany new physical practices as well as ideas. I ask that, as part of your rigorous engagement with the course, you meet the material as best you can and allow others the space to do the same. Please consult with me should any questions or concerns around course content or dialogue arise.

- **Online Learning Community:** Our learning community includes communication outside of class. Your commitment to creating a positive learning community includes not only how you interact in class but also how you interact with and/or represent other members of our class online via in threaded discussions on Canvas, social media, and other platforms. Please use formal, respectful, and professional standards when corresponding with me and with each other via email and/or Canvas.
- **Email:** An email is not a text message nor a DM. Please begin emails with a formal greeting and avoid unprofessional colloquialisms. For UF guidelines on "netiquette": <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Late Policy

If a student arrives to class after the start time, the student will be considered tardy. **Each tardy will result in a 1-point deduction.** If a student is more than ten minutes late for a movement-based class, they should receive instructor permission to observe class. The student will write a one-page observation paper due at the beginning of the next class to receive attendance credit.

Observation Papers

Observing class is only acceptable if the student is ill, injured, or tardy and gets instructor permission. If the student is observing class, they should take observation notes to receive participation credit, which will be due by the end of the week via Canvas. These notes should not be a regurgitation of the steps performed in class but rather **observations of what you learned as a witness to dance.** Observation papers must be submitted via Canvas in the "Participation/Observation Papers" module by Sunday (midnight) the same week. The student is only permitted to observe class up to ONE time during the semester.

Written Exams (20 points)

There will be two written exams to cover reading assignments from the DAA 1000 handbook, course modules, videos, and in-class discussion. An exam review will be given during the week of each exam.

Movement Presentations (20 points)

Students will be asked to present two movement showings throughout the course. These showings will demonstrate learned movement vocabulary, authentic movement generated by you and/ or group members, and will draw from additional sources offered through class modules and discussions. Full details will be offered on Canvas and through live discussions.

Performance Review (10 points)

Students will be asked to view an online or virtual dance performance and write a review of their observations. Performance options and writing guidelines will be presented in Canvas.

GRADING POLICY

ASSIGNMENT	DUE	POINTS
Participation	Ongoing	50 points
Written Exam #1	2/7	10 points
Midterm Movement Presentation	3/17	10 points
Written Exam #2	4/18	10 points
Final Movement Presentation	4/21	10 points
Performance Review	4/28	10 points
<hr/>		
Total		100 Points

POINT GRADE 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	

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.

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 (<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 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/>

UF has an Equal Access Mental Health Clinic that has a Free Therapy Night every Monday night that UF is considered open. Here is the FB page through which one can book appointments as well: <https://www.facebook.com/equalaccessclinic/>

The UF School of Medicine Equal Access Clinic website is here and has the above mental health services as well as specialized Women’s and LGBT medicine: <https://equalaccess.med.ufl.edu/specialty-clinics-classes/>

Alachua County Crisis Center web site:

<https://alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisiscenter/pages/services.aspx>

Offers Crisis Counseling as well as a Mobile Response Unit that attends to severe mental health crises.

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, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

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
- (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: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201601/all/theadanc.htm>

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/>

PROFESSOR BIO

Melissa Brenner studied dance and performance at Arizona State University (MFA), the University of Florida (BFA), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (HSD), and holds a Pilates Certification from PSC. Melissa has had the pleasure of performing the works of Mary Fitzgerald, Karen Schupp, Elizabeth Johnson, 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. When not teaching, Melissa spends summers performing and participating in dance festivals such as Bates Dance Festival, American Dance Festival, La Alternativa and Strictly Seattle. Melissa is currently Adjunct Lecturer in dance at University of Florida, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Santa Fe College, Coordinator of the Young Dancer Workshop of North Central Florida and is Co-Director of Dance Theatre of Santa Fe.