

BASIC MODERN DANCE

SPRING 2021

SYLLABUS

DAA 2104 Section: 1443 (2 Credits)

T/TH 10:40am-12:10pm

Nadine McGuire Pavilion CON 006

University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance

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.

INSTRUCTOR 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](mailto:ufl.edu) email may be used when Canvas is not available.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SoTD's modern practice curriculum is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students—majors, minors, and non-majors—to embrace the demands of the 21st century artist. Each level builds the required historical, aesthetic, and biomechanical foundations for graduating as a major in our dance degree programs. Likewise, the minor or non-major must recognize the classes as a pre-professional training ground by meeting the objectives at the appropriate level. When every student brings into every class their discipline and motivation, they will be ready to meet and greet the following goals common to each respective level of technique:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To learn the essentials of contemporary modern dance and to experience it personally.
- To understand the major traditional aesthetic premises and development of contemporary modern dance.
- To develop an informed view of the interaction of art and society in the 20/21st Century.
- To develop fundamental technique and performance skills.
- Demonstrate growth and progression within the following five areas of evaluation:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- To explore the expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- To empower the person/dancer/thinker/choreographer in each student.
- To get hands on experience with the creative process & production of contemporary dance.

COURSE POLICIES:

SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE

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>

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.uflhealth.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.

ABSENCES

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.

Dance Technique Class Participation 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 classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins you are marked absent.
- 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.

SPRING DANCE CLASSES AND COVID-19

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- 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/>).

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.

VIRTUAL CLASSES

All students should familiarize themselves with Zoom and obtain access to a webcam or smartphone. Zoom will be used for portions of this course.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS

- Students will need to be seen via webcam or smartphone.
- 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. (See Dance Attire below)
- 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 feedback, questions, discussion topics, and so forth. If you do not, the professor can mark you as tardy or absent.
- Showing up late on Zoom will result in a **1-point** deduction of your final grade.

VIRTUAL CLASS/ RECORDINGS

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.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Dance Technique Class – Makeup Policy

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for 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
- No oversized clothing
- No gym shorts
- Your ankles must be visible
- Hair needs to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches
- No chewing gum

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

GRADING POLICIES:

1. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT 30 points

These 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.
- 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. MIDTERM ASSESSMENT

Midterm 25 points – February 25; March 2

3. FINAL ASSESMENT

Final 25 points- April 15; April 20

4. HISTORICAL PROJECT 10 points

In small groups, you will present modern dance “key players” to the class via digital visual formats (PowerPoint or similar), video sharing, and movement. Group appointments and assignment details can be found on Canvas.

Presentations will be spread out between two dates- February 9; March 18

5. BOX PAPER 10 points

To help you to “think outside the box,” you must venture outside the studio!

Students will be required to view a dance performance (online, virtual, or live) and write a review of their experience. A list of performances and writing guidelines can be found within CANVAS.

Performances outside the provided list must be approved by the professor.

Due by April 28th

GRADING POLICY

ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE	POINTS
Continuous Assessment	Continuous	30 points
Midterm Evaluation	2/25-3/2	25 points
Historical Project	2/9; 3/18	10 points
Final Evaluation	4/15-4/20	25 points
Box Paper	4/28	10 points
Total		100 Points

GRADING 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	

*Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

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.

A note on choreography and plagiarism: Plagiarism violates the UF Honor Code and can result in Suspension or Dismissal. Plagiarism means intentionally or unintentionally using another's words or ideas without giving credit. When using ideas or exact words from another person you must give citations for the source(s), even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it. In addition, as we are working with aspects of movement composition that may often make reference to other works of dance, no unaccredited lifting, copying, or sampling of dance material from YouTube or other sources will be permissible. These kinds of actions/uses are subject to penalties for plagiarism.

Important SoTD Dates for Fall 2020

January

11 – Welcome Back Dance Area Meeting with Students & Dance faculty 6:00-7:30 PM via Zoom

13-14 – Spring BFA Showcase Auditions 6:30 - 8:30pm (Zoom link TBA)

14-17 – DIAS Guest Residency with Ryan-Olivia Lundy

18 – No classes, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

22 – Dance Program BFA auditions (online)

February

4 – SoTD Town Hall 1-2:45 PM

22 – UnShowing #1 – tentative/subject to change and via Zoom

March

1 – UnShowing #2 – tentative/subject to change and via Zoom

26-28 Dance 2021 (virtual/online)

31 – SoTD Town Hall 1-2:45 PM

April

15-18 – Spring BFA Showcase (virtual/online)

21 – classes end

22-23 – Reading Days

STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

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.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> . 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> .

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.

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>

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.

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIEST

Elio Piedra

eliopiedra.com

UF Basic Modern Timeline SPRING 2021

**Subject to change! Thank you for your flexibility as we navigate this atypical semester.*

January

12 ZOOM- Course Introductions and Expectations
14 ZOOM- Masterclass with Ryan-Olivia Lundy
19 Studio!!!
21
26
28 ZOOM – Prep historical presentations

February

2
4
9 ZOOM- Historical Presentations- Round 1
11
16
18 Midterm Prep Green + Blue
23 Midterm Prep Red + Yellow
25 Midterm Assessment Green + Blue

March

2 Midterm Assessment Red + Yellow
4
9
11
16
18 ZOOM- Historical Presentation- Round 2
23
35
30

April

1
6
8 Final Prep Red + Blue
13 Final Prep Green + Yellow
15 Final Movement Presentations Red + Blue
20 Final Movement Presentations Green + Yellow

***4/28 BOX PAPER DUE**