

## DAA 3108: Intermediate Modern / Contemporary Dance Practice

Spring 2021 | Section: 4581 | T/R 10:40a – 12:35p | CON G011



**Instructor of Record:** Alex Springer (pronouns he/him/his)  
**Email:** [aspringer@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:aspringer@arts.ufl.edu)  
**Office Location:** Zoom link available on Canvas  
**Office Hours:** T/W 1:00-2:00p e-mail for password  
**Office Phone:** 352-273-0050 (Main Office)

**Syllabi** can be found here <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>  
**Lab Fees** can be located at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>  
**Canvas (e-learning):** <http://elearning.ufl.edu>  
**Email Policy:** Use ONLY your UFL.EDU email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.

### INTERMEDIATE MODERN DAA 3108 COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Credits: 2; can be repeated with change in content up to 8 credits. Prereq: audition. Experience in intermediate level technique, readings, observations and movement exploration exercises.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intermediate Modern / Contemporary Dance aims to develop a rigorous movement practice from which we can experience dynamic creative expression. This course is a continuation of the concepts taught in other movement classes and will build upon the foundations each student brings to the contemporary form. Contemporary denotes a “now-ness” and is always of the moment based on the people in the room. This practice will take shape around the community gathered. Warm-up exercises focus on weight shift, broad kinesthetic awareness, generating heat for endurance, strength, and stability, and intelligent anatomical alignment and engagement in preparation for complex phrase material. These and all exercises draw upon Springer’s experiences within the contexts of post-modern concert dance, release technique, improvisation, partnering, West African dance, Hip Hop, Bartenieff, Qi Gong, and Yoga. Personal improvement will be assessed individually based on comfort with movement material, expression, willingness to take risk, and creative investigation. Collectively, we will honor and welcome what each person in the space brings to the community’s experience. This class is meant to be a time for play, exploration, and sharing each other’s many wisdoms.

**Recommended Equipment:** Facemask, knee pads, water bottle, notebook, digital portal (laptop/phone), headphones w/ microphone.

**Required Reading:** TBA; all materials will be made available on Canvas.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will have gained:

- Understanding of alignment, conditioning, and kinesthetic awareness for reliable and efficient dancing.
- Heightened sense of proprioception and full body integration.
- Increased flexibility, strength, and range of motion.
- Awareness of musicality, rhythm, dynamics, and varied quality in movement.
- Higher proficiency in learning, retaining, and performing movement material.
- Sensitivity to music, environment, and imagery as they pertain to movement investigation.
- Ability to rigorously explore creative expression and individuality in all exercises.
- Experience collaborating with fellow students in a variety of contexts.
- Confidence to contribute to class discussion regarding the collective practice.
- Sensitivity to the community in practice together.
- An understanding of dance as a part of everyday life and culture.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



RELATE • INNOVATE • ITERATE

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS META-STRATEGY  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

### COLLEGE OF THE ARTS META-STRATEGY: the call of the [College of the Arts Meta-Strategy](#).

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.

### CULTURE OF CARE:

As we enter into the third semester living with COVID-19, I propose we adopt a **culture of care** in all our endeavors. Care affects how we interact with ourselves, one another, and the space we share. Care invites more patience and generosity. Care can ensure our personal and collective safety, well-being, and development. I invite us to practice radical empathy and hospitality to cultivate an atmosphere where we can all feel welcome to enter and participate.

### COVID-19:

The current coronavirus pandemic is reshaping how we function on almost every level. We can no longer take for granted shared space or physical interactions with others. There are many new policies and regulations in place and outlined in the syllabus (see COVID addendum). Please review them and be in touch with any questions or concerns.

### ANTI-RACISM:

As outline in the COTA Meta-Strategy, I am committed to dismantling racism as a contemporary dance artist, educator, and person. This will take many forms throughout our coursework together and invite you to be open, vulnerable, and patient. I invite you to engage in critical dialogue with me as we move forward in this work together.



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

## STUDIO PROCEDURES

### 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.
- 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. Offer positive feedback to each other.
- Asking questions and contributing to class discussion.
- Collaborating equitably.
- Showing gratitude for community.
- **Communicate!** Please email me with *any and all* concerns, questions, and needs as they arise.
- **YOUR SUGGESTIONS!**

**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. 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. We will take “mask moments” to step outside for a break and hydration. 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.

**Zoom Space:** I ask that you approach the online space with the same care you do for an in-person class. Please leave your video on the whole time and try to keep as much as your body in the frame as possible. This is the only way for me to see you and give meaningful feedback. Our practice is a dialogue (often non-verbal) and your video is essential to that communication. I realize Zoom is not neutral space like the studio and if you need to be muted please communicate with me. Close all other applications (e-mail, web browser, etc) and put away your other electronic devices.

Lateness and leaving early are also detriments to your progress. If you are late or leave early it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor accordingly before/after class. Chronic tardiness or early departure will require an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss strategies moving forward. See attendance policy.

If you must observe class due to injury or illness, you will be required to write an **observation analysis** that must be submitted at the end of class.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS + GRADING

### (1) CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH + DEVELOPMENT (10%)

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) TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT (10%)

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, incorporating feedback.

### (3) ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT (10%)

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.

### (4) PROJECTS + RESPONSES (20%)

All projects and written work will be submitted to Canvas. I will communicate more specific requirements for each project prior to the deadline. See Course Schedule below for more details.

## EXTENSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Please do your best to submit work on time. I understand that there will be extenuating circumstances especially this semester and ask that you contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the due date to arrange for an extension. I respect you and your time and know that sometimes flexibility is needed to do your best work. Please respect me by honoring these timeframes which will allow me adequate time to review your work and give thorough individual feedback.



#### (5) ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION (50%)

It is your responsibility to be an active participant in this course. Be generous, inquisitive, and motivated. Speak up and be an eager contributor to conversations and peer to peer discussions.

While “active engagement” is hard to quantify, I will suggest the following: you will begin with a potential active participation grade of B; demonstrated engagement with the readings and regular constructive contributions to class discussions will improve your grade; absence, disruptive behavior, or lack of participation will count against your grade; **three late arrivals will count as one absence.**

Remember that a) you cannot participate if you are not in class and b) attendance alone does not constitute active participation; if you have difficulty speaking up in class, talk to me privately about this early in the semester.

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.

In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required at the following Dance Area events. You will provide proof of attendance and a short connection to one work within one week after viewing the production. Required events are:

- **DANCE 2021 Faculty Concert:** March 26-28 @ 7:30p (virtual/online)
- **Spring BFA Showcase Performance:** April 15-18 @ 7:30p (virtual/online)

### COVID + ATTENDANCE:

This course will be held in-person and hybrid as needed unless otherwise announced. In order to attend, you must be *cleared for campus* via the UF Health COVID-19 Screening accessible through ONE.UF. Please e-mail me directly if/when you need to be online. Online space is meant to be reserved for COVID concerns and should be respected in the same way we treat our physical classroom space. Again, always communicate with me about your situation and needs in advance of all class meetings.

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

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.

# GRADING GUIDELINES FOR DANCE TECHNIQUE COURSE\*

**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*

## PERCENTAGES

Continuous Assessment of Growth and Development	10%
Technical Development	10%
Artistic Development	10%
Projects + Readings	20%
Attendance / Participation	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## LETTER GRADES

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
F	Below 63

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

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2021

*\*All events will be held virtually and links will be made available on canvas.*

Jan 11	Welcome Back Dance Area Meeting	6:00-7:30p
Jan 13-14	Spring BFA Showcase Auditions	6:30-8:30p
Jan 14-17	DIAS Guest Residency w/ Ryan-Olivia Lundry	
Jan 18	No Classes – MLK Jr. Holiday	
Jan 22	Dance Program BFA auditions	
Feb 4	SOTD Town Hall	1-2:45p
Feb 22	UnShowing #1 (tentative)	6:30-8:30p
Mar 1	UnShowing #2 (tentative)	6:30-8:30p
Mar 26-28	DANCE 2021 Faculty Concert	evening TBD
Mar 31	SOTD Town Hall	1-2:45p
Apr 15-18	Spring BFA Dance Showcase	evening TBD
Apr 19	Disaster in the Body Guest Lecture	evening TBD
Apr 21	Last Day of Classes	
Apr 22-23	Reading Days	

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
1	Jan 12 + 14	Pre-semester survey	Jan 11 by 5p
2	Jan 19 + 21	Letter to Alex	Jan 24 by 11:59p
3	Jan 26 + 28	Body History reflection	Jan 31 by 11:59p
4	Feb 2 + 4	Incremental Improvisation #1	Feb 7 by 11:59p
5	Feb 9 + 11	Incremental Improvisation #2	Feb 14 by 11:59p
6	Feb 16 + 18	Quiz Reflection	Feb 21 by 11:59p
7	Feb 23 (No class Feb 25)	Individual meetings with Alex	before Mar 4
8	Mar 2 + 4	Response assignment #1	Mar 7 by 11:59p
9	Mar 9 + 12	Small Group Incremental Improvisations	Mar 14 by 11:59p
10	Mar 16 + 18	Response assignment #2	Mar 21 by 11:59p
11	Mar 23 + 25	Video viewing + Discussion thread	Mar 28 by 11:59p
12	Mar 30 + Apr 1	Response assignment #3	Apr 4 by 11:59p
13	Apr 6 + 8	Contemporary Artist Research Project	In-class Apr 15
14	Apr 13 + 15	TBA	Apr 20 by 11:59p
15	Apr 20	Final reflection paper	Apr 27 by 11:59p

## UF POLICIES

### 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.

### 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/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### 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.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#).

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#).

## COVID ADDENDUM

### DANCE PROGRAM SPRING 2021 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, band aids, 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 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.

These parameters are for our community's safety. As humane artists, let's exercise our responsibility to care for one another and model global best practices during this very difficult time. *It will pass eventually* and though we don't know exactly how the world will be on the other side, ***we will dance freely once again.***

#### 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.

***\*THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\****

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