

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

Spring 2021
T, R 5:10 PM -7:00 PM
Constans Theatre, Studio G6
2 Credits

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

PLEASE NOTE!

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

OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate proficiency in West African dance movements
- To demonstrate an understanding of body coordination and how to move the body expressively
- To cross the boundaries of music, dance, theatre, and culture in the creation of theatrical work exploring cultural traditions
- To demonstrate mastery of West African dance vocabulary
- To broaden your understanding of the social significance of performance in today's society through involvement in community outreach
- To strive for an ever-growing proficiency in the repertory presented, emphasizing professionalism and performance

- To search for an internal discipline and confidence, motivating you to challenge your limits, both physical and psychological, and to motivate others to do the same.
- To open yourself to creating a community of artists and audience members dedicated to cultural sharing
- To become more confident with his/her own moving body and show a willingness to engage and improvise

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

ATTENDANCE:

For Studio Courses

For classes that meet twice a week:

- students can take 2 absences with no documentation with no penalty.
- 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.
- Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion
- Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, 2 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
- There will be a 5 minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.

MAKE-UP POLICY

- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
 - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
 - <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmary)
 - <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
- If unable to dance, you may 'actively' observe one time for full credit.

- You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class.

Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion

Injuries are special cases. If an injury occurs see/contact me immediately regarding absences, make-ups or possible withdrawal from the class.

Late assignments: Unless otherwise indicated, all homework assignments are due in class on the date listed on the syllabus. An essay received after the due date is late.

DRESS

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

Please see below for additional requirements for traditional West African dance clothing

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

OR

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

Please do not chew gum as you are taking class.

EVALUATION

Final grades determined by points:

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

Grade Scale	77 – 79 C+
95 – 100 A	74 – 76 C
90 – 94 A	70 – 73 C
87 – 89 B+	65 – 69 D+
84 – 86 B	60 – 64 D
80 – 83 B	59 and below F

CLASS ACTIVITIES/ ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Class Participation:** Students are required to attend each class. Attendance will be taken each class period, and students receive 1.5 points for full participation in each class.

2. **Rhythm & Region Quizzes:** Students will complete a total of 7 quizzes throughout the semester. All quizzes are 2 questions and vary in formats from multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching etc. Content of the quizzes is based on the traditional West African rhythms, movement and history discussed in class. Quiz Reviews will be posted in the announcements on canvas. Quizzes will be due on assigned Thursdays by 11:59PM.

3. **West African Dance Solo:** All students will be required to perform one West African Dance Solo, using any of the movements taught during class time. Students must perform a minimum of 4 dance movement taught in class. Rubric and instruction uploaded on canvas.

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/12	Module 1 Introduction to Class & Review of Syllabus Introduction to West African Dance/Music movement and technique. Explore Connection between drum and West African Dance
1/14	Introduction to Debabon/Soli Dance Technique from Ivory coast/ Guinea Assign groups for Final projects
1/19	Dembabon (Ivory Coast) /Soli (Guinea) Dance Technique <i>Discussion 1 Due</i>
1/21	Dembabon /Soli
1/26	Dembabon /Soli
1/28	Dembabon /Soli <i>Quiz 1 Due</i>
2/2	Abodon (Ivory Coast)/Adowa (Ghana) Dance Technique
2/4	Abodon/Adowa
2/9	Abodon/Adowa
2/11	Module 2 Abodon/Adowa <i>Quiz 2 Due</i>
2/16	Abodon/Adowa
2/18	Abodon/Adowa
2/23	Yankadi (Guinea) Dance Technique
2/25	Yankadi <i>Quiz 3 Due</i>
3/2	Yankadi
3/4	Yankadi
3/9	Yankadi
3/11	Yankadi <i>Quiz 4 Due</i>

3/16	Module 3 N’Goron (Ivory Coast) Dance Technique <i>Discussion 2</i>
3/18	N’Goron
3/23	N’Goron
3/25	N’Goron <i>Quiz 5</i> <i>Dance Solo Video</i>
3/30	N’Goron
4/1	N’Goron
4/6	N’Goron
4/8	N’Goron <i>Quiz 6</i>
4/13	Module 4 Technique combining all traditional dances learned Debadon/Soli (Ivory Coast/ Guinea) Abodon/Adowa (Ivory Coast/Ghana) N’Goron (Ivory Coast)
4/15	Technique combining all traditional dances learned Debadon/Soli (Ivory Coast/ Guinea) Abodon/Adowa (Ivory Coast/Ghana) N’Goron (Ivory Coast) <i>Quiz 7 Due</i> <i>Group Project Due</i>
4/20	Last day of Class Celebration

UF Absence Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, as follows:

Source: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.

- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.
- You cannot participate in classes unless you are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
- If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however.

The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences. Please consult the following sites for UF's physical and mental health resources: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/> (Student Health Care Center)
<http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy) <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)

Student on-line evaluation process:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. The instructor is the only person that views your written comments. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community.

Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/> - UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (source: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Counseling and wellness center contact information:

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

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

Getting Help:

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

UF Help Desk at:

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 ● <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

Counseling and Wellness resources, Disability resources, Resources for handling student concerns and complaints Library Help Desk support

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

1. 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/>

2. 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/>

3. 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.

Dance Program Spring 2021 COVID protocols:

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

For 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.

Ø 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-leasteffective/>. Duke University published study here:

<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083>)

Ø 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 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.