

DAA 2104: Contemporary Dance Practice 1

Fall 2021 | Section: 19G5 / 08GH | M / W / F 10:40a – 12:35p | CON G011



Instructor of Record: Alex Springer (pronouns he/him)
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Office Hours: TBA /by appointment
Office Phone: 352-273-0511

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.

DAA 2104: CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICE 1 COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Experience in beginning level technique, readings, observations, and movement exploration exercises. Credits: 2; Prereq: DAA 1000 with minimum grade of C, or audition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary Dance 1 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:

- Foundational understanding of alignment, conditioning, and kinesthetic awareness for reliable and efficient dancing.
- Sense of proprioception and attention on 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:

This course aims to meet 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 another 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. Please follow all campus guidelines, utilize [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](#), and remain fluid as the situation evolves.

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!** We will create, discuss, and compile community agreements specific to our group. We enter this space with various experiences and perspectives, together seek to create the safest space possible to learn, thrive, and grow.

"Not causing harm requires staying awake. Part of being awake is slowing down enough to notice what we say and do."

-Pema Chödrön

Proper Attire: Masks are **EXPECTED**. 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 a water bottle to 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.

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 below.

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 (40%)

The following areas are used by faculty to assess student progress throughout the semester:

- **Artistry:**
 - *Musicality and Rhythm*—Student understands timing in movement and movement phrasing
 - *Performance Quality*—Student can execute movement with confidence
- **Embodiment:**
 - *Kinesthetic Awareness*—Student demonstrates an understand a foundational level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches in movement practice, including a comprehension of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and personal range of motion.
 - *Movement Execution*—Student can safely and accurately execute movement of simple to moderate complexity.
 - *Energy and Conditioning*—student can utilize and develop a foundational level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support.
- **Communication:** Student exhibits an ability to speak from the self and their own experience, while being respectful of others and demonstrates the ability to articulate questions with clarity.
- **Community Engagement:** student takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus; demonstrate commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmates versus a select few as the course progresses.

(2) PROJECTS + RESPONSES (30%)

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 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.



(3) ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION (30%)

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 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 fourth 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 other classes and/or 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.

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.

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.

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

- **Fall BFA Showcase Performance:** Nov 3-6 @ 7:30p / Nov 7 @ 1:30 & 4p
- **Agbedidi:** December 3 & 4 @ 7:30p / Dec 5 @ 2p

CONTENT WARNING:

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in an artistic practice course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I will do my best to give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language or perspectives that some may find difficult, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

GRADING GUIDELINES FOR DANCE TECHNIQUE COURSE **Developed in part by Jan Erkert, University of Illinois*

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.

PERCENTAGES

Continuous Assessment of Growth and Development	40%
Projects + Readings	30%
Attendance / Participation	30%
TOTAL	100%

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FALL 2021

Aug 23	6:30-7:30p	Dance Area Welcome Meeting
Aug 25	6:30-8:30p	Dance 2022 Faculty Auditions
Aug 26	6:30-8:30p	Fall 2021 BFA Showcase Auditions
Sept 27	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #1
Sept 28	11:15a-12:30p	SoTD Town Hall
Oct 4	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #2
Oct 7	5-6p	Public review of a chapter from Assistant Professor Rachel Carrico's manuscript
Oct 13	4-5p	BFA Showcase Production Meeting
Oct 15	9a-4p	BFA Program Audition
Nov 3	1:30-2:45p	SoTD Town Hall
Nov 3-6	7:30p	BFA Showcase
Nov 7	1:30p + 4p	BFA Showcase
Nov 8	6:30-8:30p	Dance Open Conversation
Dec 3 & 4	7:30p	Agbedidi
Dec 5	2p	Agbedidi
Dec 6	6:30-8:30p	Final UnShowing

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
1	Aug 23 / 25 / 27	Survey	Aug 29 by 11:59p
2	Aug 30 / Sept 1 / 3	Body History reflection	Sept 5 by 11:59p
3	<i>(No class Sept 6)</i> Sept 8 / 10	Incremental Improvisation #1	Sept 12 by 11:59p
4	Sept 13 / 15 / 17	Incremental Improvisation #2	Sept 19 by 11:59p
5	Sept 20 / 22 / 24	Incremental Improvisation #3	Sept 23 by 11:59p
6	Sept 27 / 29 / Oct 1	Video viewing + Discussion thread	Oct 3 by 11:59p
7	Oct 4 / 6 <i>(No class Oct 8)</i>	Quiz Reflection	Oct 10 by 11:59p
8	Oct 11 / 13 / 15	Individual meetings with Alex	Prior to Oct 25
9	Oct 18 / 20 / 22	Small Group Incremental Improvisations #4	Oct 24 by 11:59p
10	Oct 25 / 27 / 29	Response assignment #1	Oct 31 by 11:59p
11	Nov 1 / 3 / 5	Response assignment #2	Nov 7 by 11:59p
12	Nov 8 / 10 / 12	Response assignment #3	Nov 14 by 11:59p
13	Nov 15 / 17 / 19	Response assignment #4	Nov 22 by 11:59p
14	Nov 22 <i>(No class Nov 25 / 27)</i>	Contemporary Artist Research Project	in-class prior to Dec 1
15	Nov 29 / Dec 1 / 3	Contemporary Artist Research Project	in-class prior to Dec 1
16	Dec 6 / 8	Final reflection paper	Dec 10 by 11:59p

UF POLICIES

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 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.

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.

IN-CLASS RECORDING:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

HEALTH + WELLNESS RESOURCES

- *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](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

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](#).

COVID ADDENDUM

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - 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.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - 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.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

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

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