

DAA 1000- Fundamentals of Dance Technique

FALL 2021

CLASS INFORMATION

Class Number: 12408 Section: 05D1(3 Credits)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:40am-12:10pm

SCOC 1450- Orange and Blue Room at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance

Note: Classes in the O'Connell Center often get moved due to events. Please check your Canvas announcements frequently to get alerts on room changes.

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.

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Melissa Brenner mbrenner@arts.ufl.edu*

Office Location: Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion, Office T212

Virtual Office: Zoom link shared on Canvas

Virtual Office Hours: MW 1pm-1:55pm; T/TH 4:15pm-5pm; Fridays by appointment

Office Phone: 352-273-0500 Main Office

*Email Policy: Please use your **CANVAS** email account for email correspondence related to class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide a student with the history, basic techniques, and contemporary references relevant to accessing a basic understanding of dance.
- Enhance the mind/body connection through the application of sound biomechanical principles as they relate to dance, such as practicing proper alignment, learning basic

human anatomy, and learning of alternative approaches to movement study. This knowledge will be directly applied to the various styles of dance learned in class.

- Practice elements of performing and explore performance quality, discovering your own potential and personal style while developing your kinesthetic memory
- Experience, discuss and write about dance performances

TEXTBOOK

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

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

CANVAS

DAA1000 is partially facilitated through e-learning (Canvas). DAA1000 students must set up access to Canvas to successfully complete the course.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

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.

COVID-19 POLICY

UF has increased in-person class offerings for the Fall 2021 semester and The School of Theatre + Dance (SoTD) welcomes more students back to campus. At the same time, COVID-19 cases are surging because of the new delta variant and the large numbers of people who are unvaccinated, setting new local and state records for hospitalizations. As a result, our methods for realizing classroom activities and productions will continue to look different. Below is a list of practices that the school is implementing to

safely connect. The practices align with UF's Fall 2021 plan (<https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/>) and they will evolve as our community needs shift in response to the virus.

- **All people inside of UF facilities are expected to wear masks** in buildings, dance studios and classrooms, **even if you are vaccinated.**
- **Your ONE.UF account must show a “Cleared for Campus”** status in order to attend in-person. I will check my roster before each class meeting.
- Notify the instructor with as much advance possible if you need to attend class on Zoom due to Covid related reasons. **Zoom requests may not be used for reasons other than Covid.**

Students, Faculty, and Staff are trusted to foster healthy SoTD class and creative environments through adherence to the following guidelines:

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. If possible, **students should aim to be fully vaccinated but if unable, should strive to have at least one shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22.** 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 wherever they are currently can still receive their second dose on campus.
- 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).
- Participate in UF Health's Screen, Test, and Protect initiative by completing health screening questionnaires and by scheduling testing when prompted through One.UF.edu. Additional testing information is available at: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/screen-test-protect-plans-spring-2021/>.

CLASS MAKE-UP POLICY

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence.
- There are no makeup options for unexcused absences beyond two.
- To earn credit for an excused absence, you must communicate with the instructor.

DRESS POLICY

Please wear attire which is form fitting & suitable for movement. Long pants are encouraged to support floor work. Large jewelry is not recommended. A comfortable face mask and knee pads are suggested.

STUDIO POLICIES

- No eating or drinking in the studio, besides water
- Masks are expected to be on at all times while in the studio
- Please bring a water bottle to every class
- Electronic devices must be placed on mute and left out of sight during class
- Personal belongings should be pushed to the sides and out of the usable dancing space

COURSE GRADING POLICIES

PARTICIPATION/ ATTENDANCE- 50%

Students are expected to be fully present in class unless they are unwell. Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course. Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and to contribute in class discussions and group work. As we cultivate our studio practice, we will critically evaluate our thoughts, opinions, and assumptions. As a learning community, I ask that we collectively invest in an environment in which all class members feel empowered to physically and intellectually take risks, ask questions, experiment, and grow.

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

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

CANVAS QUIZZES – 20%

There will be two Canvas quizzes to cover reading assignments from the DAA 1000 handbook, course modules, videos, and in-class discussion. An in-class review will be offered prior to each quiz.

MOVEMENT PRESENTATIONS – 20%

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

PERFORMANCE REVIEW- 10%

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

GRADING OVERVIEW:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE	POINTS
Participation/ Attendance	Ongoing	50%
Canvas Quiz #1	September 16th	10%
Midterm Movement Presentation	October 21st	10%
Canvas Quiz #2	November 16th	10%
Final Movement Presentation	December 7th	10%
Performance Review	December 14	10%
Total		100%

GRADE SCALE:

A	93-100	B+	86-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	E	59 and below
A-	90-92	B	83-85	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is only offered in extreme circumstances. Do not expect that extra credit will automatically be available to you. If emergencies arise, please talk to the instructor.

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> - UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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>]

ANTI RACISM

The faculty members of the Dance area of SoTD join alumni and current students’ condemnation of systemic racism in SOTD as it has been articulated in the SoTD New Deal, DIAS’s Open Conversations, SoTD Town Halls, our dance area Open Conversation, and other venues. I am personally, fully committed to deepening my awareness of systematic racism, and aim to devise ways to dismantle it in my everyday life and classes. I evaluate my approach to teaching with anti-racist practices at the forefront of my values. My mission as a dance educator is to cultivate a safe and nourishing classroom space that is equitable and inclusive.

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>

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>

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.

PROFESSOR BIO

Melissa Brenner studied dance at Arizona State University (MFA), the University of Florida (BFA), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (HSD), and holds a Pilates Certification. 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.