

# CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 2 (Majors)

## FALL 2021

### CLASS INFORMATION

DAA 2105- Class Number: 27648/9 Section: 2C60/1 -2 Credits

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:40am-12:35pm (Just us)

Fridays 10:40am-12:35pm (Master Class Series- Faculty and location rotate)

\*Mondays 6:15pm-9:15pm (See SoTD Dance Area Events below for details)

Nadine McGuire Pavilion CON G006

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](mailto: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; By appointment

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

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

SoTD's Contemporary dance practices curriculum is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students to embrace the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century artist. This course will further the study of contemporary modern dance through application of physical and aesthetic elements such as line, shape, energy and use of space. Technique classes will consist of warm-up, use of proper alignment, body awareness, moving through space, improvisation, and center combinations based on lyrically athletic movement. Class time will also be used as an environment for open discussion about movement in terms of anatomical motivation, artistic concepts, personal discoveries, and historical references.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To understand the traditional aesthetic premises and development of contemporary modern dance.
- To explore the potential of movement through improvisation, composition, discussion and manipulation.
- Demonstrate growth and progression within the following areas: Artistry, Embodiment, Communication, Citizenship
- To explore the expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- To empower the person/dancer/thinker/choreographer in each student.

## COURSE POLICIES

### ATTENDANCE

**Students can take 3 absences with no penalty;** no documentation is required for the first 3 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 (after three) 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.

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>

### CLASS 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 beyond three.
- 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 protect your legs for 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

## COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, the following policies are in place to maintain our learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-studio interactions.

- You are expected to wear a face covering at all times during class and within buildings, even if vaccinated.
- You are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. For information on vaccines, please visit <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your area prior to class.

- **If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms please stay home.** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>). Use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>). 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/>).

- Notify the instructor with as much advance possible if you need to attend class on Zoom due to a Covid related issue. **Zoom requests may not be used for reasons other than Covid.**

## COURSE EVALUATION

### 1. 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. Please let me know before class if you are not able to fulfil this responsibility that day.

**NOTE: Friday Master Classes and required SoTD Dance area event are included in this category**

### 2. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT- 20%

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

- ARTISTRY
  - Musicality and Rhythm- understands timing in movement and movement phrasing and demonstrates clarity of rhythmic patterning.
  - Performance Quality- executes movement with confidence and demonstrates ability to explore dynamic range.
- EMBODIMENT
  - Kinesthetic Awareness- Students are able to integrate a moderate level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches to movement practice, including developing sense of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.
  - Movement Execution- Students are able to safely and accurately execute movement of moderate complexity with attention on weight transfer.
  - Energy and Conditioning- Students are able to utilize and develop a moderate level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support, as well as energetic modulation.

- **COMMUNICATION**  
Student begins to cultivate clarity of personal voice and articulation of ideas. Demonstrates the ability to listen to themselves and others, with respect for differing opinions.
- **CITIZENSHIP**  
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 classmate versus a select few as the course progresses; active engagement physically, including volunteering to show/demonstrate/lead

**3. THEN AND NOW ESSAYS- 10%**

Two subjective, reflective essays should be submitted through Canvas by the due dates. These essays are an opportunity for you to self-evaluate, celebrate personal growth, and articulate your curiosities. Full details can be found on Canvas.

**4. MIDTERM PRESENTATION- 10%**

Students will work in groups to cultivate a movement presentation that demonstrates their artistry, embodiment, communication, and citizenship skills. Full details on the midterm presentation will be available on Canvas prior to the presentation dates.

**5. FINAL PRESENTATION- 10%**

Students will work in groups to cultivate a movement presentation that demonstrates their artistry, embodiment, communication, and citizenship skills. Full details on the final presentation will be available on Canvas prior to the presentation dates.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING OVERVIEW**

ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE	PERCENTAGE
Participation/ Attendance	Continuous	50%
Continuous Assessment	Continuous	20%
“Then” Essay	September 1	5%
Midterm Presentation	October 20	10%
Final Presentation	December 1	10%
“Now” Essay	December 14	5%
Total		100%

**GRADING PERCENTAGE 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.

## IMPORTANT SOTD DATES

**Dance Majors are expected to attend the following events. Events marked with an asterisk (\*) are a required part of the course and affect attendance percentages.**

### Fall 2021

\*Monday, August 23 @ 6:30pm-7:30pm Dance Welcome Meeting (Zoom)  
Wednesday, August 25 @ 6:30pm-8:30pm Faculty Audition (Zoom)  
Thursday, August 26 @ 6:30pm-8:30pm BFA Seniors Audition (Zoom)  
\*Monday, September 28 @ 6:30-8:30pm Unshowing #1 (Tentative)  
Tuesday, September 28 @ 11:15am-12:30pm SoTD Town Hall (Zoom)  
Monday, October 4 @ 6:30pm-8:00pm Dance Open Conversation (Zoom)/ \*Unshowing # 2 (Tentative)  
Friday, October 15 @ 9:00am – 4:00pm BFA Program Audition (Zoom)  
Friday, October 29 and Saturday October, 30 (TBD) Young Dancers Workshop  
Wednesday, November 3 @ 1:30pm-2:45pm SoTD Town Hall (Zoom)  
\*Wednesday, November 3- Sunday, November 7 BFA Showcase. (11/3-11/6 @ 7:00pm; 11/7 @ 2:00pm)  
Monday, November 8 @ 6:30pm-8:00pm Dance Open Conversation (Zoom)  
\*Friday, December 3 through Sunday, December 5 Agbedidi (12/3-12/4 @ 7:00pm; 12/5 @ 2:00pm)  
\*Monday, December 6 @ 6:30-8:30pm Final Unshowing (TBD)

## 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/](http://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

**SOTD 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.

**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.

[\[http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf\]](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 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](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>
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## 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](mailto: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 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.