

DAN2930 27932/27637  
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR  
University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance  
Fall 2021

**Instructor:** Melissa Montilla    **email:** [mmontilla@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:mmontilla@arts.ufl.edu)    **phone:**  
352-538-7537

**Class meetings:** 9:35 AM - 10:25 AM  
1 Credits / Classroom: CON G10 / Fridays / Period 3

**Communication:** Do not hesitate to contact me. You may call, text, or email. I prefer emails via Canvas. Text is the most effective. You are welcome to text me with any questions or concerns 24/7. I will reply ASAP. I am also available before and after class. If that does not work for your schedule, please email, or text me and I will set up an in person, call, or zoom meeting.

**Course Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/441431>

ALL technical issues are to be resolved by you directly with the UF Computing Helpdesk which is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- (352) 392-HELP (4357) – select option 2
- helpdesk@ufl.edu (email this address)
- UF Computing Helpdesk Walk-In (HUB, 132) hours: Mon - Thurs: 7:30 am - 10:00 pm; Friday: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm; Weekends: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

*All UF syllabi are subject to change. This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. During the semester, those plans may change to clarify the class learning opportunity and you are individually responsible to follow updates provided: your regular attendance ensures you will be up to date.*

**Catalog Description:**

This course provides first-year students with resources, information, and experiences to support and enrich their participation in dance in a university environment. Enrichment activities, discussions, and research opportunities explore resources and options for dance at UF.

Welcome to UF!! Dance in Higher Education is a rigorous and rewarding experience that prepares students for a lifetime in the Arts and beyond. This class teaches skills to support that endeavor. SoTD has a legacy of nurturing creativity, as well as critical thinking.

### **Objectives for First Year Seminar:**

1. Explore the purpose and philosophy of dance in higher education in general and at UF.
2. To offer tools for self-care, and maintaining a healthy body, heart, and mind.
3. Explore the potential roles of a dance major within academic and other learning environments.
4. Introduce the resources, behaviors, and skills necessary for successful learning in dance and beyond.
5. To develop professionalism as a student and create systems for a successful experience at UF.
6. To build the networking and community-building skills foundational to a successful career.

### **Required Texts and Materials:**

- All required content will be posted on Canvas site.
- A writing/sketch journal. This can be the same journal used for Somatics.

### **Course Policies:**

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND EACH FULL CLASS**

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

- Do not miss class if you are late. Get in and get going!
- You are responsible for any material that you miss when you are absent.
- Contact me via text at least 45 minutes before class if you are not feeling well and need to attend class virtually. Our health is a priority.

**Silence your cell phones and notifications completely before class begins, and refrain from using them during any class time.**

Please remember that while UF policy allows students to record classes to support your learning process, you may not post anything publicly without my permission. You may not record, photograph or post any other students without their permission.

### **Professionalism / Participation:**

Participation is essential to course success. Showing up is not just a physical act. Students are expected to engage in class discussion, contribute to and support each others learning, complete assignments and listen when others are speaking. The class will be at its best when we all show up for each other.

Week 1	Introduction to the course, first week reflections, and how to be an effective learner.
Week 2	Know your opportunities. The SoTD Handbook, how to advocate for yourself, and discussion on “Burnout” podcast (assignment in Canvas).
Week 3	Developing Healthy Systems. Goals are great, and they require systems that not only support the goal outcome, as well as support your ability to move through the process.
Week 4	Self-Care!!! Food is more than fuel, Hydration, Rest and Sleep. Community care as self-care.
Week 5	Dance in Academia. Introduction to Dance research and how Dance intersects with other disciplines.
Week 6	Discussion of Dance Research Presentation and/or guest presentation TBD
Week 7	No meeting - Homecoming
Week 8	No meeting - work on Research / BFA Auditions
Week 9	Present Dance Research Investigation
Week 10	No meeting - work on Festival Project / Young Dancer’s Workshop
Week 11	Look at Collected Summer Festival List and Discuss How to sort through Particulars
Week 12	Guest Presentation TBD
Week 13	Discussion and Reflection on Weekly Wellness Check In and What Professional Standards in Dance Deserve Re-examination.
Week 14	No meeting - Holiday
Week 15	Journals Due. Group Reflection on the first semester.
Week 16	Finals Week

**Evaluation:**

- Attendance and Participation (50 points)
- Journal (20 points)

- Presentation on Dance Festivals (15 points)
- Presentation on Dance Research (15 points)

**Total=100**

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Important Dates and Deadlines:**

**Drop and Add period ends August 27th, 2021 11:59pm**

- Email [mmontilla@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:mmontilla@arts.ufl.edu) by Noon on the 27th with any questions you might have regarding the syllabus, and any essential information about yourself that you think I should know.

**Research on Research Presentation Due: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

As we explore the process and possibilities of Research in Dance, you will present a verbal review of a research paper.

**Dance Festival/Intensive Presentation Due: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

UF Dance requires attendance to a Summer Festival or Intensive. Each student will research and present an event that interests them, including particulars on how to attend.

**Journals Due: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Journals are for Weekly Wellness Reflections, Letter to Future Self, and What Professional Standards in Dance Deserve Re-examination, as well as class notes.

**No Class Meeting: October 8<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**The Disability Resource Center:**

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. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available

at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **UF Polices:**

### UF GRADES AND GRADING POLICY

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

### ACADEMIC CONDUCT

UF students are obliged to abide by the university's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and overall academic conduct. The Honor Pledge 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." The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

### GETTING HELP

For help with Canvas, contact the UF Help Desk!

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS 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 [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) 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 [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/)
- University Police Department: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) 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; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- 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 [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/).
- Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> receive assistance on how to best use the libraries and/or find resources.

- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. [teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)
- Student Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-%20student-conduct-code/>
- Dropping and Withdrawal <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/drops.aspx#withdraw>

## COVID-19 Precautions

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 community spaces in buildings, including common areas in our office suites, when we are not in our individual offices or workspaces, 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.
- Until Sept 10, this course will be offered in a synchronous hybrid modality (simultaneously on Zoom and in person). You may attend via Zoom as much or as little as you want/need to until that date. After September 10th, we will reassess the need for this.

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.
- Students are welcome to use hand sanitizer or wash hands at the top of each class, rehearsal or production activity in shared spaces.
- 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.

- 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/>.
- Wipes and sanitation supplies will be available to sanitize individual props, costumes, chairs, ballet barres, music stands, tables, individual projects etc.
- Dispose of personal trash in appropriate bags/containers.