

**BFA Senior Project (Choreography/Thesis) Syllabus**  
**DAN 4959 Section 3494**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Meetings: Dates TBA**  
**UnShowings: Check Calendar Spring 2024**

## **II. INSTRUCTOR/Mentor**

Name: Isa García-Rose  
Email: isa@ufl.edu  
Phone: 352-294-0457  
Office Hours: T/TH 10:30-12:00pm & by appointment request  
Zoom Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3724118694>

Meeting ID: 372 411 8694

Office: Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion T-211

### **Senior Project (Choreographic) Summary**

The dance program has provided the student with an exceptional and supportive opportunity/experience that requires them to combine her/his skills as a choreographer, producer, and writer to achieve success; a culmination of the training you have received in the program that has prepared you for this capstone course. The focus of the Senior Project is the creative process/research behind an original dance that will be adjudicated for inclusion in the BFA showcase. The actual work is to be a *group piece* (usually four or more performers), with a running time of no more than *eight-minutes* (final performance time). You work *as a class* to produce the showcase simultaneously while you work on your creative project. (Please note that all works for the showcase will be performed together in the venue established by the dance program/director.) Finally, you will articulate your creative research in a thesis-style paper. You will be assigned a mentor/advisor by the dance area.

The emphasis is on creative process/research. It is important to recognize that even with the best planning and creative determination, some projects may not be what you planned them to be. This does not indicate failure of the course. To the contrary, depending on how you utilize the situation and continue to contribute to the showcase and finish your writing process, it is an opportunity to grow and mature as an artist and scholar.

### **Objectives of the Senior Project**

- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to create an original dance (group piece w/guidelines)
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to collaborate within a group of your artistic peers to produce a showcase of quality and substance
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to participate in the UnShowing process to receive feedback from the UF dance community

- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to work with their faculty mentor(s) to help you explore the full potential of their choreographic voice
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to finalize and articulate their creative process through the paper

**Casting Guidelines and Responsibilities**

- It is up to the choreographer to ensure that your dancers are only in a total of three (3) dances per concert (not program).
- It is the choreographer’s responsibility to inform/remind their cast of all UnShowing times, tech times, call times, show times, load-in and strike responsibilities, as well as rules for attendance of warm-up, notes, etc.
- Choreographer should also be sure their cast has a clear calendar for the performance, as we will not make individual adjustments to the performance order or schedule.

**Evaluation**

| <i>Points</i>  | <i>Area</i>                                      | <i>Supervisor</i>                |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 20 pts         | Creative Leadership                              | Mentor                           |
| 20 pts         | Deadlines and Punctuality                        | Mentor                           |
| 10 pts         | Rapport and Openness during mentorship           | Mentor                           |
| 50 pts         | Overall writing of Senior Project ‘Thesis’ Paper | Mentor                           |
| <i>100 pts</i> | <i>Total</i>                                     | <i>Grade submitted by Mentor</i> |

**Attendance**

Attendance will follow dance area attendance policy (please refer to technique syllabus for details). Unexcused absences are deductions on the total amount of points the student receives.

**Creative Leadership**

Points are given for the preparedness of the choreographer to implement her/his choreography, how well the concept was communicated to the dancers, and how well the choreographer guided their dance through the rehearsal process into performance. It can also reflect the quality of communication the choreographer had with their mentor.

**Deadlines and Punctuality**

The Senior will communicate with mentor and meet all the deadlines for writing the paper. Early in the semester, the senior will meet with his or her mentor.

## **Rapport and Openness during mentorship**

It is important for the senior and their mentor to have a good rapport. This will allow significant growth. The senior is responsible for asking any questions at any time and the mentor will assist as best as possible.

## **Production Schedule (Schedule to be finalized prior to the start of techs):**

**This listing does not include call times for cast/crew – TBA**

## **Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper**

The Senior Project paper is the final phase of your Senior Project choreographic project; the articulation of your creative research. It is expected that you will use the following format in the writing of your Senior Project paper.

### **Spring 2024 Paper Deadlines\*:**

By **Monday, February 5, 2024**: Please have emailed about how your paper/idea is shaping up. All related assignments (complete outline, abstract draft and finalized bibliography) will be turned in to your Senior Project advisor.

**Thursday, February 5, 2024**: Organizational Outline due by 5:00PM.

**Wednesday February 28, 2024**: First draft due by 5:00PM. Notify me should you need a short extension.

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**: Second/final after mentor edits draft due by 5:00PM.

**Third draft**: If your advisor needs further edits, this would be accomplished during a time-line established between you and your advisor.

**Date of Final Draft TBD after feedback and editing incorporated. To be completed by graduation!**

\*Advisor may discuss any alterations on deadlines with you due to extenuating circumstances. If there are changes to the final deadline, please contact your advisor.

## **RESEARCH PAPER REQUIRED FORMAT**

NOTE: USE MLA STYLE GUIDELINES TO WRITE PAPER

A GREAT and EASY-TO-USE site for **MLA STYLE GUIDELINES**: <http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/>

## **MLA Formatting and Style Guide**

This is a great online resource for MLA formatting: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>  
Please note for them that for the paper you will have additional requirements beyond MLA, including title page, acknowledgments. etc.

- **Title Page**, with title of paper, your name, date submitted, class name and number, and professor (no page number) See: <http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/how-to-cite-a-scholarly-project-mla/>
  - **Dedication** (roman numeral ii)
  - **Acknowledgements** (roman numeral iii)
  - **Abstract** succinct overview of the paper (Write—or rewrite—after you have completed your paper) (roman numeral iv). An abstract summarizes the paper and is used by prospective readers to decide whether or not to read the entire text. Make it compelling and powerful reading (100-250 words maximum).
  - **Table of Contents** (roman numeral v). Use exact title of section on left and 1<sup>st</sup> page number of the section on right: include page numbers for dedication, acknowledgments, abstract, and section headers (but do not cite page numbers for title page or Table of Contents).
  - One-page **Introduction** to topic (start numeral 1)
    - *Problem and Purpose Statement: who or what are you proposing to discover, challenge, understand, illuminate. Purpose of paper and what you seek to achieve in this writing.*
    - *Rationale: what is important about this exploration? What contribution does it make to the field of dance?*
    - *Personal Statement: Why is the subject important to you? Is there a personal connection to the subject; or a connection you would like to make?*
  - Two-page **Discussion of the Literature** and other resources you researched (written, visual, media) - Demonstrate your knowledge of what has been done before related to this topic.
  - Two-page **Methodology** section describing the research process you undertook
- Detail ideas and approaches showing WHAT you actually did.
  - You may include HOW you made unique connections across (or unique use of) your selected “literature” (written, visual, media, etc.) and questions it prompted.
    - Two-page **Outcomes, Reflections, and Future Directions** section, summarizing the most salient outcomes of your project and possible future directions of your research/project.
      - The critical findings, results, or conclusions of the research, including strengths and weaknesses.
      - What further questions do you have or what directions for research?
      - What are the *larger* implications of your findings?
    - Optional: Visual Resources
    - Works Cited in **MLA** (Note you will use simple in-text citations as per **MLA**; place extra
  - explanatory notes in endnotes) (page numbers...)

(Depending on your approach to your creative research, as well as your GPA, it is possible that this Senior Project paper can be converted into a research paper that will put you in good stead for graduation with high or highest honors should your GPA warrant such recognition. Your Dance History paper could also be used. This usually requires adapting or reconfiguring a portion of your creative research into a focused research topic. Typically, the Senior Project paper, by itself, would not be acceptable for this level of consideration. High/Highest honors papers also require a faculty mentor, as well as a second reader.)

### 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.

#### **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
- Absences from Written Exams, Quizzes, Mid-Terms, and/or Finals may only be made up with approved documentation
- To earn credit (amount of credit determined by the instructor) for an excused absence you must do two things:
  - 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies. You can email these to your instructor.
  - 2) Make-up the class with an approved assignment submitted on the required date. If the assignment is to attend another class as a make-up, the student must request permission of that instructor.

**If the student cannot attend class due to illness, the student may read fifteen pages from our required book and complete a reaction paper. These may be turned in through canvas as soon as the student is well or two weeks after the absence.**

Student on-line evaluation process

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

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-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.

##### 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 (352-392-4357) - select option 2, <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Please take advantage of these services:

### Campus Resources:

- Health and Wellness 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 <https://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 <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- University Police Department: Visit <https://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, FL 32608; <http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

### Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the 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 <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask 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. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

### General Information

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.

### **Spring 2024 Dance Calendar**

Jan 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes, welcome back meeting @ 6:30pm, G6

Jan 8 – Coordinators meeting 3-4pm

Jan 9 – Spring into Dance Auditions from 6:30-9:30pm, G6

Jan 12 – Dance Area Meeting 1-2:30pm

Jan 15 – MLK Day, no classes

Jan 19 – OPTION #1 Curriculum Retreat, 1-4pm

Jan 22 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

Jan 22 – UnShowing #1, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

Jan 23 – Parsons Dance @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

Jan 26 – BFA Auditions

Jan 29 – UnShowing #2, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

Feb 5 – OPTION #1 Open Conversation, 6:30-8:00 in G6



Feb 5 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

Feb 9 – Dance Area Meeting –1-2:30pm

Feb. 16 – Masterclass visit with Bharatanatyam artists (CAME)  
 - SoTD Town Hall, 10:45am-12:15 pm on Zoom

Feb 11-13 – BFA Showcase Spacing rehearsals

Feb 14-16 – BFA Showcase Tech rehearsals

Feb 19 - 12:50-2:45: Halifu Osumare guest lecture (during Dance History)  
 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

Feb 18-20 – BFA Showcase final Tech and Dress rehearsals

Feb 21-25 – BFA Showcase

Feb 23 – Dance Area Meeting 1-2:30pm

Feb 26 – Dark Day – NO DANCE MAJOR CLASSES

Feb 27 or 29 – Bagels and Ballet, 10-11 AM (tentative)

**March 4-8 – OPTION #1 CRAs (any 1<sup>st</sup> semester majors, 2<sup>nd</sup> year BFAs)**

March 4 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

**March 4 - OPTION #2 Open Conversation, 6:30-8:00 in G6**

March 5 – Step Africa @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm (alumnus Ariel Dykes is in the company!)

**March 8 - OPTION #2 Curriculum Retreat, 1-4pm**

March 11-14 – ACDA Brenau University, Gainesville, Georgia

March 9-17 – SPRING BREAK

March 18 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

**March 18-22 – OPTION #2 CRAs (any 1<sup>st</sup> semester majors, 2<sup>nd</sup> year BFAs)**

March 19 – Adia Whitaker Master Class, 3:00pm G6

March 22 – Dance Area Meeting 1-2:30pm

**March 25-29 – OPTION #3 CRAs (any 1<sup>st</sup> semester majors, 2<sup>nd</sup> year BFAs)**

March 25 – UnShowing #3, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

**March 29 – OPTION #3 Curriculum Retreat, 1-4pm**

**April 1-5 – OPTION #4 CRAs (any 1<sup>st</sup> semester majors, 2<sup>nd</sup> year BFAs)**

April 1 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

April 1 - All classes and rehearsals in G6 move to Constans Stage

April 5 – Dance Area Meeting 1-2:30pm

April 7-10 – Spring Into Dance Spacing Rehearsals

April 11 – Crew Watch Spring Into Dance

April 12 – Spring Into Dance Tech #1

April 14-15 – Spring Into Dance final Tech rehearsals

April 15 – Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

April 16 & 17 – Spring Into Dance Dress Rehearsals

April 18-21 – Spring Into Dance

April 19 – Dance Area Meeting 1-2:30pm

April 22- Dark Day  
 - All classes and rehearsals resume in G6

April 23 – Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

April 24 – Last Day of Classes  
 - Senior Circle, 12:10-12:30pm in G6 [TBD]  
 - SoTD Convocation, 4-5pm in Black Box Theater  
 - Final UnShowing/ BA Senior Project Symposium, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

**April 29 - CRAs – Graduating Seniors – Times TBD (tentative)**