

**DAA 2104**  
**Contemporary Dance Practices**  
University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance  
**FALL 2022**

**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

**SYLLABUS**

**PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

PROFESSOR: Emily Pozek   epozek@ufl.edu\*

Office Hours: Before or after class by appointment

Office Phone: 352-273-0500 Main Office

\*Email Policy: Please use your [ufl.edu](mailto:ufl.edu) email account for correspondence

**CLASS MEETING LOCATIONS/MEETING TIMES**

Tuesday/Thursday Class 27525/19318

10:40AM-12:35PM Nadine McGuire Pavilion COG G-006 Studio

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to modern, ballet, and jazz 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, with a focus on dance styles common to Western culture, 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 ballet, jazz and modern 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

## **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

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 Attendance Guide:**

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the virtual classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when class begins you are marked late.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2022-23 Handbook (SoTD website) and included in this syllabus.

## **ABSENCES**

**Students can take 2 absences with no penalty.** Documentation is not required for the first absence as it will be automatically excused. Each absence, after two, will be a 5-point deduction from the final grade, unless made up. (See make-up policy)

Note: 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.

## **MAKE-UP POLICY**

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for more than 2 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.
  - 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, it must be the same technical level, or lower; student must request permission of that instructor.

## **DRESS POLICY**

- Attire which is form fitting & suitable for movement (Tights, Leotards, Leggings, Yoga type pants, form fitted sweatpants)
- No oversized clothing
- Shorts are not recommended
- Hair needs to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches

**Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent from class or points deducted at instructor's discretion.**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENT**

### **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 fulfill this responsibility that day.

### **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.

### **HISTORICAL PROJECT- 10%**

Students will work in groups to research and present a historical modern dance artist. Project details and presentation dates can be found on Canvas.

### **MIDTERM & FINAL PRESENTATIONS- 20%**

Students will work in groups to create 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.

## Learning Community

As we cultivate our classroom 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. Dance practices frequently intersect with the difficult and at times violent pasts and presents of inequalities related to race, gender, sexuality, class and ability. Feelings of discomfort can at times accompany new physical practices as well as ideas. I ask that, as part of your rigorous engagement with the course, you meet the material as best you can and allow others the space to do the same. Please consult with me should any questions or concerns around course content or dialogue arise.

- Online Learning Community: Our learning community includes communication outside of class. Your commitment to creating a positive learning community includes not only how you interact in class but also how you interact with and/or represent other members of our class online via in threaded discussions on Canvas, social media, and other platforms. Please use formal, respectful, and professional standards when corresponding with me and with each other via email and/or Canvas.
- Email: An email is not a text message nor a DM. Please begin emails with a formal greeting and avoid unprofessional colloquialisms. For UF guidelines on "netiquette": <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

## 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 must 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 must take observation notes, 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 in the "Participation/ Observation Papers" module by Sunday (midnight) the same week. The student is only permitted to observe class up to ONE time during the semester

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING OVERVIEW**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Participation/Attendance	Ongoing	50%
Continuous Assessment	Ongoing	20%
Historical Project	TBD	10%
Midterm Presentation	TBD	10%
Final Presentation	TBD	10%
Total		100%

### **GRADING PERCENTILE 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.

*\*\*\*\*A note on choreography and plagiarism: Plagiarism violates the UF Honor Code and can result in Suspension or Dismissal. Plagiarism means intentionally or unintentionally using another's words or ideas without giving credit. When using ideas or exact words from another person you must give citations for the source(s), even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it. In addition, as we are working with aspects of movement composition that may often make reference to other works of dance, no unaccredited lifting, copying, or sampling of dance material from YouTube or other sources will be permissible. These kinds of actions/uses are subject to penalties for plagiarism. \*\*\**

**Spontaneity:** Due to the experiential nature of this course, the instructor retains the right to alter the syllabus as needed to accommodate class pace, interests, and/or special opportunities that may arise.

**Respect:** In order for all to have a positive experience in this course, we must all demonstrate respect for each other and the people involved in site observations. *This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*

## **SCHEDULE**

Week 1 - 8/22 Intro/ Welcome  
Week 2 -8/29 Modern Movement  
Week 3 -9/5 Modern Movement  
Week 4 - 9/12 Modern Movement  
Week 5- 9/19 Modern Movement  
Week 6 - 9/26 Modern Movement  
Week 7- 10/3 Modern Movement  
Week 8 - 10/10 Modern Movement  
Week 9 - 10/17 MIDTERMS  
Week 10 - 10/24 Modern Movement  
Week 11- 10/31 Modern Movement  
Week 12 - 11/7 Modern Movement  
Week 13- 11/14 Modern Movement  
Week 14 - 11/21 (Thanksgiving Week)  
Week 15- 11/28 FINALS  
Week 16- 12/5 Last week of class FINALS

*\*\*THIS IS SYLLABUS AND COURSE CONTENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\**

## 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

**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.

### **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/>

**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>]



## 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>

## GETTING HELP:

If applicable: 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>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

**Syllabi are posted at CFA website under:** <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

**Lab Fees** can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201601/all/theadanc.htm>

## STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>