

UF School of Theater and Dance

DAA 2341 Contemporary African & African Diasporic Dance Practices 1

I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: DAA 2341 Contemporary African & African Diasporic Dance Practices 1 -
(Rotating Topic: Afro-Brazilian Dance)

Semester & Year: Spring 2023

Meeting Days and Times: T/TH 10:40am – 12:35pm

Building and Room: Nadine McGuire - G6

II. INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Augusto Soledade

Email: asoledade@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 273-0506

Office Hours: T/Th from 1pm-3pm

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A performance-based course aimed at developing the understanding various styles of dance within the African & African Diasporic realm as a technique and an art form. Students will experience movement through traditional, folk, and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance forms. The class intends to provide a better understanding and appreciation of the various African based cultures that shaped Afro-Brazilian dance and dances of the African Diaspora. The class is structured so that the students have an extensive experience in all elements of dance: rhythm, space, movement, effort, time, shape, body and performance.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Exhibit increased strength, flexibility, body articulation and stamina.
2. Accurately use dance terminology.
3. Discuss dance as an art form.
4. Perform African & African Diasporic Dance.

V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

All readings will be posted to Canvas as hyperlinks and downloadable PDFs.

Reading 1: "African Influences in Brazilian Dance – Myriam Evelyse Mariani, African Dance: An Artistic, Historical and Philosophical Inquiry.

Video 1: Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gh7c46U5hhY&t=929s>

*Readings will be used as an element of contextualization of the physical experiences generated through class.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES: Expectations:

Student will

- Attend classes regularly, be on time and ready to work for the entire class period.
- Maintain a professional working attitude.
- Participate in all in class activities, engaging fully both mentally and physically.
- Strive to improve individual progress by demonstrating increased strength, flexibility and an increased awareness of body alignment, timing and spatial pathways.
- Observe dance class etiquette (cell phone use, dress code, lateness policy etc...)
- Strive to apply given corrections and concepts to movement.

Assignments:

Writing Assignment:

Assignment 1:

Read the assigned article and write a response paper. In the response paper, you should summarize important points addressed and described in the article. You may also offer personal commentary specially in relationship to the article content and your experience in class or any previous notion of Afro-Brazilian culture. Use the MLA style to format the paper. Here is a helpful resource: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/index.html

- **Writing Assignment 1 is due on 01/27 by 11:59pm**

Assignment 2:

Watch the following documentary and write a summary of the different aspects of Afro-Brazilian culture addressed in the video. Pay close attention and respond to specific historic, cultural and artist aspects mentioned. Your paper should have a max of two pages. Also, make sure that the structure of the paper presents an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gh7c46U5hhY&t=929s>

- **Writing Assignment 2 is due on 03/10 by 11:59pm**

Dance Concert Attendance Assignment:

Attend at least two dance concerts this semester. You may choose two out of the following: BFA Showcase, Faculty Concert - Dance 2023 or any dance performance presented at the University Performing Arts Center. Attentive Observation: as you watch the performance, pay close attention to approaches, cultural contexts and artistic choices brought about in the work and compare it to your experience in class. The objective is to understand the intricacies and complexities in art making. Avoid making judgement.

Performance Assignments: N/A

Exams:

Mid-term in-class assessment – 03/07

Mid-term individual feedback – 03/09

Final in-class assessment – 04/20

Final individual assessment – 04/25

Presentations: N/A

Attendance:

For Studio Courses

For classes that meet three times a week (T/Th from 10:40am-12:35pm and F from 10:40am to 12:35pm):

- Students can take **3** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If the fourth absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- Excused or unexcused, on the fourth absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.

- If the fifth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- **Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material is up to the instructor's discretion.**
- Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, **5** unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

Note: 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 and when the return to class activity is expected, 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). Students must 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.

Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
- There will be a 5-minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.

Make-up Policy

- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
 - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
 - <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmary)
 - <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
 - If unable to dance, you may 'actively' observe for full credit. You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class.
 - Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion

Injuries are special cases. If an injury occurs see/contact me immediately regarding absences, make-ups or possible withdrawal from the class.

Late assignments: Unless otherwise indicated, all homework assignments are due in class on the date listed on the syllabus. An essay received after the due date is late.

Studio Rules of Conduct:

In effort to keep our dance space a peaceful, safe and clean environment for our students we ask that you observe the following:

- No gum- this is also for safety reasons since we don't want dancers choking.
- No talking, food or quick pick-me-ups during class. However, you may keep water bottles inside the studio for hydration provided they have caps to prevent spills.
- All phone calls must take place outside of the studio and NEVER during class time. If you have an emergency situation you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class. Ringing cell phones, texting etc. are disruptive to classroom activity. Please be considerate.

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. 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 and when the return to class activity is expected, 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).

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPIC OUTLINE:

Class schedule is subject to modification, but not without prior notification. Please note class material is sequential and comprehensive. Please take time to review movement sequences before and after class.

Week One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Building a set Warm Up 1 for first half of semester (a set warm up is a sequence of physical exercises that will prepare students to execute Afro-Brazilian dance) • Going across the floor (will help students apply movement practice abilities through space. During this phase students will learn a new movement phrase per class) • The following areas are the proposed goals during the Warm Up and Across the Floor phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building stamina • articulation of Spine • developing movement retention • understanding culture and customs • understanding musicality • isolating movement • After movement experience, students will learn Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i> is the traditional dance students will learn in the first half of the semester.
Week Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Warm Up 1 • Across the Floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i>
Week Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Warm Up 1 • Across the Floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i> • Assignment: Reading 1
Week Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Warm Up 1 • Across the Floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i> • Writing Assignment 1 is due on 01/27 by 11:59pm
Week Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up 1 (by now, students should know all the warm up material and will execute it efficiently) • Across the Floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i>

Week Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up 1 (by now, students should know all the warm up material and will execute it efficiently) • Across the Floor • Review Movement Phrase for Evaluation 1 • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i>
Week Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up 1 (by now, students should know all the warm up material and will execute it efficiently) • Across the Floor • Review Movement Phrase for Evaluation 1 • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Samba</i>
Week Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation 1- In-class performance • This is the midpoint in-class assessment. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the material presented in the first half of the semester. The following rubrics are used for assessment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Retention: students remember movement phrase and can perform it in its entirety. 2 – Movement Quality: students clearly design space with movement and execute movement with sophistication and nuance. 3 – Musicality: students demonstrate clear understanding of rhythm and executes movement in time. 4 – Energy: students reproduce appropriate level of energy when executing movement.

Week Nine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a set Warm Up 2 for second half of semester • Going across the floor (will help students apply movement practice abilities through space. During this phase students will learn a new movement phrase per class) • The following areas are the proposed goals during the Warm Up and Across the Floor phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building stamina • articulation of Spine • developing movement retention • understanding culture and customs • understanding musicality • isolating movement
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After movement experience, students will learn Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i> is the traditional dance students will learn in the second half of the semester.
Week Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a set Warm Up 2 • Going across the floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i> • Writing Assignment: Video watching and response paper
Week Eleven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a set Warm Up 2 • Going across the floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i> • Writing Assignment 2 is due on 03/10 by 11:59pm
Week Twelve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a set Warm Up 2 • Going across the floor • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i>
Week Thirteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up 2 (by now, students should know all the warm up material and will execute it efficiently) • Across the Floor • Review Movement Phrase for Evaluation 2 • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i>
Week Fourteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up 2 • Across the Floor • Review Movement Phrase for Evaluation 2 • Afro-Brazilian rhythms through drumming • <i>Maculelê</i>
Week Fifteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation 2 – In class performance • This is the final in-class assessment. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the material presented in the second half of the semester. The following rubrics are used for assessment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Retention: students remember movement phrase and can perform it in its entirety. 2 – Movement Quality: students clearly design space with movement and execute movement with sophistication and nuance. 3 – Musicality: students demonstrate clear understanding of rhythm and executes movement in time. • – Energy: students reproduce appropriate level of energy when executing movement.

Week Sixteen	Finals Week No regular class.
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	1	2	3	4	5
Attitude					
Motivation					
Application of Direction/Corrections					
Overall level of progress					

VIII. GRADING CRITERIA:

Final Course Grade:

Your final grade is determined by your performance on a number of different tasks:

Evaluation 1 (Retention, Movement Quality, Musicality, Effort)	35%
Evaluation 2 (Retention, Movement Quality, Musicality, Effort)	35%
Dance Concert Attendance	10%
Written Assignments	20%
TOTAL	100%

Rubrics

Rubrics for Participation

Rubrics for In-class Assessment

	1	2	3	4	5
Placement and Alignment: understands the relationship of body parts to one another. Understands how body parts form an aligned physical structure.					
Conditioning: utilizes and develops a foundational level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support.					

Spatial Awareness and Full Body Integration: understands a foundational level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches in movement practice, including an understanding of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.					
Rhythmic Clarity/Musicality: understands timing in movement and movement phrasing.					
Performance Quality: executes movement with confidence. clearly designs space with movement and executes movement with sophistication and nuance.					
Movement Execution: safely and accurately executes movement of simple to moderate complexity.					
Energy: reproduces appropriate level of energy when executing movement.					
Retention: remembers movement phrase and can perform it in its entirety.					

Letter grades translate to percentages as follows:

Grades

95 – 100	A
90 – 94	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-

77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
65 – 69	D+
60 – 64	D
59 and below	F

Semester Calendar

SPRING 23 DANCE CALENDAR

JANUARY

TBD: Dance Student Council elections

1/09 - Dance Area Welcome Back Meeting – 6:30pm-8pm; BA Focused Welcome Back Meeting immediately to follow

1/11 - tentative: BFA Showcase auditions G-6 6:30-8pm

1/12-15 - Andrea Ward in residence

1/13 - Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

1/18-20 – Orange Grove Dance in Residence for Ric Rose Alumni Award activities

1/19 - Matt & Colette talk on Dance/Film G-11 12:50-2:20 pm

Ric Rose Alumni Award Presentation 5:30-7pm

01/20 - Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

1/23 - Fittings begin for Dance 2023

Dance 2023 Design Presentations & Company Meeting 6:30-8pm via Zoom

01/27 - BFA Program Audition – 9am – 4:30pm

1/30 - Dance 2023 Load In

FEBRUARY

TBD – UnShowing

2/3 – Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

UFPA Performance: *STOMP*, 7:30pm

2/8 - Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

2/10 – Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

2/11 – UFPA Performance: Momix: *Alice*, 7:30pm

2/15 - Spring BFA Showcase Production Meeting 3-4pm, Zoom

Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

2/16 - SoTD Town Hall 10:45am-12pm online

2/17 – UnShowing for BFA Showcase Choreographers (during Fri. Masterclass)

Dance Retreat 1-4pm

2/18- UFPA Performance: Dance Alive: *Horse of a Different Color*, 7:30pm

2/19-22 – Dance 2023 Spacing Rehearsals, 6:30-10:30pm, Constans

2/23 - Dance 2023 Crew Watch 6:30-9:30pm, Constans

2/24 - Dance Open Conversation 1- 2:30pm

Doug Varone Master Class G-6

Dance 2023 Tech #1 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

2/26 - Dance 2023 Tech #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

2/27 - Dance 2023 Tech #3 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

2/28 - Dance 2023 Dress #1 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

MARCH

TBD - UnShowing

3/1 - Dance 2023 Dress #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

3/2-5 – Dance 2023, Constans

3/3 - Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

3/6 – Dance Dark Day

3/10 - BFA Showcase Load In and Audio Ring-out, 9am-5pm, G-6

Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

3/13-17 – Spring Break

3/19 - BFA Showcase optional spacing 9-11pm, G-6

3/20 - BFA Showcase Lighting Orientation 5-7pm, G-6

BFA Showcase spacing rehearsals 7-11pm, G-6

3/21 - BFA Showcase spacing rehearsals 5-11pm, G-6

3/22 - BFA Showcase Tech Program A 7-11pm, G-6

3/23 - BFA Showcase Tech Program B 7-11pm, G-6

3/24 - BFA Showcase Tech with Costumes Program A & Production Meeting 7-11pm, G-6

Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

3/25 – UFPA Performance: Dance Alive: *Swan Lake*, 2 & 7:30pm

3/26 - BFA Showcase Tech with Costumes Program B & Production Meeting 1-5pm, G-6

3/27 - BFA Showcase Dress Program A & Production Meeting 7:30-11pm, G-6

3/28 - BFA Showcase Dress Program B & Production Meeting 7:30-11pm, G-6

3/29–31 Spring 23 BFA Showcase

3/31 - Dance Area Retreat– 1-4pm

APRIL

TBD: BA Dance Social/ Info Session

4/1-2 – Spring 23 BFA Showcase (continued), Strike 4/2 5:30-7:30pm G-6

4/3 – Dance Dark Day

4/10-14 CRAs (CRAs meetings schedule TBA)

4/7 - Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

4/14 - Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

4/21 - Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

4/22: UFPA Performance: *Ahuti*: The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble in collaboration with The Chitrasena Dance Company, 7:30pm

4/24 – Final Unshowing – 6:30-8:30pm, G-6

4/26 – Classes end

Tentative: Senior Circle 12:10-12:30pm, G-6

SoTD Convocation 4-5pm, Constans

MAY

5/1 – CRAs – Graduating Seniors – 9am-11:30am and 1pm-3pm (tentative)

University Policies

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. Please consult the following sites for UF's physical and mental health resources: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/> (Student Health Care Center)

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy) <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)

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. The instructor is the only person that views your written comments.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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, 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 (source: <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 in this class.

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 - 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.

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

1. 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/> (Links to an external site.)
2. 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/> (Links to an external site.)

3. Alachua County Crisis Center web site:

<https://alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisiscenter/pages/services.aspx> (Links to an external site.)

Offers Crisis Counseling as well as a Mobile Response Unit that attends to severe mental health crises.