

DANCE COMPOSITION 4: DAA 3615 – SPRING 2023

***Syllabus Note/Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. Through the semester, the constitution of the class cohort, unforeseen events, and schedule changes may dictate changes. **Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Any amendment to the syllabus will be sent to you, updated on Canvas, and be clearly stated and available.**

Day: Tuesday/Thursday 12:50 – 2:45 PM
Place: G-6

Instructor of Record:
Associate Professor *Elizabeth Johnson*
ejohnson@arts.ufl.edu

*Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

Syllabi are posted here: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Office: Room 234, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion
Office Hours: M/W: 1-2:30 PM and Fridays by appointment. Also available through Zoom:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5885911063>
Office Phone: 352-273-0522

Required Text: none. If needed, readings from various sources will be provided digitally/free of charge. TBD.

Course Description and Goals:

Dance Composition 4 features opportunities to explore practical, historical, collaborative, and aesthetic choreographic practices while concurrently collaborating with student artists from Digital Worlds.

As the final compositional course prior to the choreographic Senior Project, this course will help you to:

- communicate and collaborate with other artists across disciplines—specifically Digital Worlds students designing video projections for dance works
- build choreographic skills by practicing creative and compositional methods in specific relationship to **group forms** including but not limited to:
 - review of development of thematic material (motif, theme/variation, and beyond)
 - understanding approaching movement material with commitment to literal interpretation vs. the possibilities of abstraction
 - exploring differences and preferences between visual/spatial symmetry and asymmetry including working on exits and entrances, canon, and ground bass form
 - learning/reviewing forms associated with Western classical music that are associated with dance forms: AB, ABA, Rondo, Accumulation, etc.
- learn about, practice, and integrate into your work purposeful autoethnography that considers your personal history and its connection to multiple histories, relationships, and cultures including your Dance culture.
- be introduced to the basics of dance production that are needed to navigate design conversations with light, sound, and costume designers as well as the “real world” realities of self-producing in varied venues.
- make a final “product” that integrates your choreographic learning, personal creative process, and unique artistic voice.
- work as a collective to audition dancers, vision, and produce these works as a concert for the Spring BFA Showcase.

- through class and UnShowings practice peer-based observation and feedback so you can continue developing your communication skills through thoughtful, non-reactive, intelligent, articulate feedback to your peers, which helps them and you to clarify your creative choices.

Course Objectives

1. Learn to organize and direct choreography for groups which includes: auditions, rehearsal organization, personal preparation and time management, and clear communication with your classmates and collaborators.
2. Understanding historic compositional tools for group forms and demonstrating ability to **manipulate and develop** group movement material.
3. Being able to articulate your choreographic voice through an embodied choreography produced in the Spring BFA Showcase.
4. Being able to give coherent, supportive and clear feedback to your peers and with the instructor, **co-creating a learning environment where everyone feels safe to experiment, speak, and very importantly, learn by trial, error, and sometimes all out failure** (yes you read that right).
5. Create a “final product” for BFA Showcase; practice professional collaboration and communication with Digital Worlds, Design, and Stage Management students.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance: Attendance at all classes, showings, and required events. Absences will affect your grade though each absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis. There is generous understanding for personal emergencies, unexpected illness, and injury—e-mail me immediately concerning such. **If you are injured, you are still required to attend class and participate in any way you are able.** If you are absent, you are responsible for taking the initiative to catch up with your assignments and must be prepared to show work on assigned due dates—**there is no “make up” for your work.**

***** It is assumed that at this upper class level of engagement that you will attend class—there is no grade percentage for attendance. “Showing up” is a life skill.**
2. Assigned work must be turned in and presented according to course calendar (which is flexible and also subject to change as we go along). We will use in class time as productively as possible.
3. Approach: sharing space with peers in a collaborative, generative, and generous spirit, conducting yourself professionally and generously with casts and collaborators, and coming transparently to the work in whatever “state” is present on any given day.

Grading Criteria

Professionalism with peers/collaborators – 50%

- BFA Showcase audition organization & participation
- Rehearsal process and communication with chosen casts and Showcase Director
- Organization and communication with class cohort, DW collaborators, and all Design and Production team members
- Fulfillment of all other BFA Showcase roles (Lobby Display, Program Info, Social Media, Warm-up assignments and schedule)

Final Showcase choreographic work – 40%

- Indicates a clear, congruent process evidenced in the arc of the final choreographic work
- Choreographic consistency/integrity
- Evidence of aesthetic vision that encompasses use of accompaniment/music, costuming, hair & makeup, and any/all other aesthetic elements.

Practice bibliography, abstract, and final reflection – 10%

Assignments will be given in class weekly and supported through the course Canvas site.

LATE WORK: all written assignments will be given a 2 week grace period with no penalty. After 2 weeks, each week the assignment is late will decrease its value by 10%. Without communication or prior agreement with the instructor, assignments that are not completed within reasonable time parameters will receive a zero grade with no make-up alternatives

Instructor Expectations: For the best learning outcome, all course assignments should be completed. There are built in extensions for all work with clear penalties outlined.

Communication is KEY: a lack of communication prior to late work or for chronic attendance problems will not help your case.

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	87-85
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	67-63
D-	60-62
E	59 and below

Dance Area Attendance Policy

For Studio Courses:

For classes that **meet two times a week:**

- Students can take **2** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- 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**.
- **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, **4** 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.

COURSE CALENDAR:

The course calendar is flexible and subject to the BFA Showcase tech calendar as well as our collaboration with Michael Clark's Digital Worlds course DIG4930 – Special Topics in DAS: Dance Performance & Tech.

There will be a weekly distribution of schedule and assignments supported through the Announcements function on our Canvas course site.

The Spring BFA Showcase Production Calendar is here:

<https://pages.propared.com/p/filters/34502/sPXNGstVWM6FBKF09V3IM5ffuV8JTagPwwwxy9SwigI>

SPRING 23 DANCE CALENDAR

JANUARY

9 Dance Area Welcome Back Meeting – 6:30pm-8pm

BA Focused Welcome Back Meeting immediately to follow

11 Tentative: BFA Showcase auditions G-6 6:30-8pm

12-15 Andrea Ward in residence

13 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

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

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

Ric Rose Alumni Award Presentation 5:30-7pm

20 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

23 Fittings begin for Dance 2023

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

27 BFA Program Audition – 9am – 4:30pm

30 Dance 2023 Load In

TBD: Dance Student Council elections

FEBRUARY

3 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

UFPA Performance: *STOMP*, 7:30pm

8 Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

10 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

11 UFPA Performance: Momix: *Alice*, 7:30pm

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

Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

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

17 Tentative: UnShowing for BFA Showcase Choreographers (during Fri. Masterclass)

Dance Retreat 1-4pm

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

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

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

24 Dance Open Conversation 1- 2:30pm

Doug Varone Master Class G-6

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

- 26 Dance 2023 Tech #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 27 Dance 2023 Tech #3 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 28 Dance 2023 Dress #1 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

MARCH

- 1 Dance 2023 Dress #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 2-5 Dance 2023, Constans
- 3 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm
- 6 Dance Dark Day

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

Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

13-17 Spring Break

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

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

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

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

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

29–31 Spring 23 BFA Showcase

31 Dance Area Retreat– 1-4pm

APRIL

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

3 Dance Dark Day

7 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

10-14 CRAs (CRAs meetings schedule TBA)

14 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

21 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

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

24 Final Unshowing – 6:30-8:30pm, G-6

26 Classes end

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

SoTD Convocation 4-5pm, Constans

TBD: BA Dance Social/ Info Session

MAY

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

SOTD AND SUPPORTING UF 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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

- 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.

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

Student Injury and Illness Policy:

FIRST: Please contact the Dance Wellness Clinic through the Canvas site. Also: email Marina at mrenzi@ufl.edu

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.

1. 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:
2. The student is required to see a health care professional immediately.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.

UF UNIVERSITY 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.

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/>
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/>
3. 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.

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, 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/ 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.
- 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/>