

DAA 4685: DANCE ENSEMBLE

FALL 2020 | TTH | 3-4:30pm | CON G010



instructor: Xan Burley (pronouns: she/her)
email: xburley@arts.ufl.edu
office hours: Tue 10-11am / Fri 1-3pm / by appointment
office hours zoom link: on Canvas
lab fees: <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>



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 and faculty 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.

[COLLEGE OF THE ARTS META-STRATEGY](#)



COURSE INTRODUCTION + DESCRIPTION

This class is designed to offer you an experience in collaborative choreographic development, production, and performance. My choreographic research invests in the collective, honoring and embracing each person's strengths, nuances, and exceptionalities. As such, I will invite you to create movement material, improvise, collaborate, and contribute your artistic voice. The choreographic process will unfold based entirely on how you steer it. As cast members, you have autonomy, creative agency, and something valuable to contribute. I am there to guide, direct, and facilitate. This piece will be made with, for, and by all who gather to create it. **Performances will take place on the Dance 2021 program!**

In addition, we are tasked with developing and honing a choreographic vision that can be witnessed virtually. Together, we will devise a strategy to do so, be it a dance film or a live performance for Zoom that is recorded and shared. Or something else we can imagine and realize! Rehearsals will take place in the studio in rotating groups as well as online.

I want this class—this process—to be fun, cathartic, rigorous, and unpredictable. To that end, I invite you to be open-minded, eager, and ready to play.

COMMUNICATION...is key

We will use Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) as our home-base for communicating, compiling assignments, and collaborating. Zoom meetings will also be listed there. In addition, please only use your UFL.EDU for any email correspondence. Please be sure to **communicate** with me as the semester progresses. Knowing how you're doing in this class helps me support you.

**This syllabus and course content is subject to change based on the community's needs and interests. You will inevitably define the direction we take with the class. With that said, I invite you to stay flexible as we learn about one another.*

COURSE VALUES + GOALS

In this course, we will:

- Experience an in-depth collaboration and performance with Xan and fellow cast members.
- Develop improvisation, movement invention, and performance skills.
- Contribute important creative input to the development of the piece.
- Gain a deeper understanding of collaboration and performance.

- Learn how to work in an ensemble.

As the facilitator of this course, I will:

- Listen to and center your needs as an individual.
- Create opportunities for you to grow, improve, and be challenged.
- Ask you to be open to new and different ways of moving, thinking, and creating.
- Respect your values, expertise, and boundaries.

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In order for us all to have a transformative, energetic, and generous experience, we will agree to *participate* in creating a respectful environment. We do so by:

- Showing up for yourself and others. Do your best to **be on time** and don't leave early unless otherwise excused.
- Listening fully to each other at all times.
- Taking time to reflect before responding or reacting.
- Demonstrating personal motivation and lifting up those around us.
- Asking questions and contributing to class discussion.
- Collaborating equitably.
- Showing gratitude for the class musician.
- **Communicating!** Please email me with *any and all* concerns, questions, and needs as they arise.
- *YOUR SUGGESTIONS!*

CULTURE OF CARE

"Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent." --Charlie Mackesy

We are all navigating a complex and uncertain time. Each person is experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic differently and comfort levels vary. I ask that you **commit to a culture of care** as we work together. This means respecting our policies for health and safety as well as boundaries set by your peers. The COVID-19 Appendix outlines in detail the guidelines we will follow. In addition, and even more critical, is how we will practice care in our **anti-racist** efforts. Anti-racism is an ongoing process that I am committed to as a Contemporary dance artist, educator, and person. This will take shape in our class in different ways and I invite you to be open, vulnerable, and patient with me. I ask that you bring a **radical empathy** and hospitality to class—listening, supporting, and being compassionate is essential. Please come to me with any questions, concerns, or needs.

SAFE STUDIO ENVIRONMENT

Proper Attire: Masks are **required**. You should come dressed ready for class and able to move freely and comfortably. Long pants are best and knee pads are highly suggested. Please wear clean socks that give you some traction. It is recommended that you do not wear jewelry that will impede your ability to move or put you or others at physical risk.

Water + Food: Be sure to bring your water bottle, full, into your box for class. Make sure you eat a well-balanced meal or snack before and after class. Please do not eat while in class or chew gum.

Device Usage: The studio is a place for focus and engagement, a precious time to be screen-free. Please leave your cell phones, tablets, computers, iPads, etc. in your bags and on silent unless we are using them for classwork. If you need to be reachable by phone for any reason, let me know in advance of class.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS + GRADING PROCEDURES

(1) CREATIVE, COLLABORATIVE, AND PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT (40%)

This aspect is the most weighted of your grade and reflects how you develop this semester as a collaborative artist in this process.

- **Creative development:** willingness/eagerness to welcome challenging creative tasks, openness to solo and group development of material, and development of choreographic voice.
- **Collaborative development:** developing how well do you collaborate with others. RESPECT is key.
- **Performance development:** generosity and courage with which you perform; professionalism in rehearsals.

(2) PARTICIPATION (40%)

Participation in rehearsal is necessary! As a cast member, you are responsible for your own material, your presence, and your investment in the process. How you show up defines your presence and role in the performance. Think of this as an example of a professional rehearsal process. Be professional, positive, and hard-working at all times.

BEST REHEARSAL PRACTICES

It is important that we all make some simple agreements upon entering the studio. This facilitates a safe, open, and above all *supportive* space for taking risk. These guidelines will help:

- **Be on time and do not leave early.**
- **Be warm:** arrive to rehearsal ready to move with your body warm. If you need time to warm-up, please say so.
- **Stay engaged:** present body language that demonstrates openness and willingness to try new things.
- **Respect each other and the space:** listen, demonstrate patience, and work democratically with others in collaborative assignments. Be quiet when others are working or speaking.
- **Integrate feedback:** when feedback is given to you personally, to others, or to the entire group, it is important that you consider it as an opportunity to improve yourself.
- **Review material:** upon arriving to rehearsal, review anything that we have worked on in previous rehearsals. Be prepared to call up any choreography created by that point. Use any down time to hone your material.
- **Be bold:** activate your creative ingenuity and do not be afraid to share your ideas.
- **Lead and follow well:** be a good leader and be a good follower. It is important to participate as a singular voice and as part of an ensemble. Teamwork is incredibly valuable.
- **Be professional:** always should demonstrate your professionalism.

(3) WORKBOOK (20%)

Please dedicate a notebook to this class and our process. I will occasionally ask you to upload a page or two from this workbook so I can get a sense of your engagement with the work.

PERCENTAGES

Creative, Collaborative, and Performance Development	40%
Participation	40%
Workbook	20%
TOTAL	100%

LETTER GRADES

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

[Link to the university grades and grading policies](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FALL 2020:

Aug 31	6-7:30p	Dance Area Welcome Meeting
Sept 8	6:30-8:30p	Faculty Auditions
Sept 9 + 10	6:30-8:30p	Fall BFA 2020 Showcase Auditions
Oct 9	TBA	BFA Program Audition
Oct 12	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #1
Nov 9	6:30-8:30p	UnShowing #2
Nov 19-21	7:30p	BFA Showcase
Nov 22	2p	BFA Showcase
Dec 4 & 5	7:30p	Agbedidi
Dec 6	2p	Agbedidi
Dec 7	6:30-8:30p	Final UnShowing

COVID-19 APPENDIX

***If class is suspended or cancelled, we will still meet on Zoom during our regularly scheduled class time.*

HYBRID COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Students who elect to enroll in a hybrid course are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e. a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to “attend” all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time.

For classes that meet two times a week:

Students can take **2 absences with no penalty**; no documentation is required for the first 2 absences as they are automatically excused. 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. Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor’s discretion and will be made available through virtual classes or online assignments.

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, 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)

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.

DANCE PROGRAM FALL 2020 COVID PROTOCOLS:

Excerpted and adapted from: *Coronavirus SoTD Fall 2020 Class & Production Practices* from Jenny Goelz and Peter Carpenter

For hybrid/in person courses, protocols for all faculty and students should be as such:

- Wear a facemask or cloth face covering during all indoor/in person classes... If activities are located outdoors, then masks are only necessary when individuals are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance. Comfort levels vary and no one in the SoTD community is required to refrain from wearing a mask under any outdoor/indoor circumstance.
- A properly worn facemask covers both nose and mouth. The fitted N95 mask is most effective and disposable surgical, and multi-layered cloth masks have also been tested to be effective. (Article: <https://olv.duke.edu/news/researchers-created-a-test-to-determine-which-masks-are-the-least-effective/>. Duke University published study here: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083>)
- **If a student attempts to attend class without a facemask, as per UF protocol, the instructor will ask the student to wear a mask or leave the classroom/studio. If the student refuses to wear a mask, the instructor will report the student to the Student Affairs COVID-19 Education Office.**
- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands at the top of each class in shared spaces. Re-sanitization is needed if individuals use restroom facilities, touch their face, sneeze, or cough.
- 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.**
- Students will be asked to sanitize and strike individual chairs, ballet barres, etc. Instructor of record will specify protocols for each room cleaning supplies will be provided.
- Immediately dispose of personal trash in appropriate bags/containers. Do not leave tissues, paper towels, bandaids, tape, water bottles, or any other personal refuse on the floors or in the space.
- For everyone's understanding: **avoid touch/skin to skin contact in staging, choreography, costume fittings, and during other class and production activities.** In our field, it is hard to refrain but for the safety of others and ourselves, until it's safer, the most loving thing we can do is continue to provide ample distance to lessen viral spread.
- Students are asked to depart class promptly at the end of class and avoid lingering following outdoor and indoor rehearsals. Instructors of record will provide specific class protocols for arriving, departing class, and class breaks.
- Bring shelf-stable lunches and snacks to enjoy on your breaks outside. **The SoTD Breakfast Room, break area in the Costume Studio, SoTD Atrium, and studio space hallways are no longer available (no Dance Area carpet).** There are food options for purchase in the Reitz Union and there will be some limited available study areas in the lower Atrium lobby level.
- Class schedules will be affected by the need to lengthen breaks to air out rooms, encourage hydration (it is hard to keep hydrated with a mask on), and allow adequate time for socially distanced bathroom breaks/hand washing. Staggered breaks will be avoided to ensure that all involved are able to have a moment of rest.

For in studio hybrid technique courses, movement limitations include:

- No lying down
- No rolling
- No traveling across the floor
- 10' x 10' (or similar) taped areas will delineate the student's area of personal space. All movement must stay within these limits.

Class attire and preparation:

- SoTD Dressing rooms are not accessible. For studio classes in McGuire, please come to class dressed to dance. In the O'Connell building and other alternative spaces, public bathrooms are available but should not be considered alternative dressing rooms. All use of public bathrooms should remain socially distanced with masks as per UF mandate.
- Masks are to be worn for the entirety of the class. If masks need to be removed for any reason, please exit the studio/class area and find the nearest *out door* space.
- Intact socks (no holes) should be worn in technique classes in substitution for ballet shoes or bare feet. NO street shoes in any dance spaces.

STUDENT RESOURCES

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.
- *Library Support:* 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.
- *Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)
- *On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

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 [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the Student Health Care Center website.](#)
- *University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) 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; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

UF POLICIES + STUDENT RESOURCES

ONLINE PRIVACY STATEMENT:

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

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. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 here.](#)

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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.

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) 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.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.

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

