UF School of Theater and Dance

# WELCOME TO DANCE IMPROVISATION!

**DAA 2621 Dance Improvisation** 

Spring 2023 - T/TH 12:50 to 2:45 pm

Location: SOC 2250 and BEYOND!



Professor: Joan Frosch (Dr. Joan, preferred)

She/her

Location: 213 McGuire Pavilion

**Email Policy:** Please only use your CANVAS **Contact:** <u>ifrosch@arts.ufl.edu</u>

acct. for email correspondence regarding

this class, thank you!

#### Office Hours

By Zoom, hours and zoom link shared on CANVAS; and by appt

## Course Description

The course introduces dance improvisation as an art form, a personal practice, and a process for creating choreography through movement exploration, readings, and observations.

## Learning Outcomes

- 1. Examine habitual mind and movement tendencies.
- 2. Take up the physical challenge to exist outside your "comfort zones" while also accepting and capitalizing on your movement preferences.
- 3. Develop and hone performance, perceptual, and imaginative skills, both individually and in group settings.
- 4. Ably engage in specific improvisational techniques, parameters, and exercises in order to generate movement material.
- 5. Become competent in analyzing and evaluating improvised performances and practices through written, verbal, and movement communication.
- 6. Become conversant with the various locations of improvised dance, especially in Western concert dance traditions and in African diaspora forms.

### Required Texts and Materials

Readings/Viewings as assigned via the Canvas Course Site from such works as:

- The Moment of Movement: Dance Improvisation by Lynne Anne Blom and L. Tarin Chaplin
- Contact Improvisation, Moving, Dancing, Interaction (With an Introduction to New Dance) by Thomas Kaltenbrunner
- o Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation by Sandra Cerny Minton
- o Albright, Ann Cooper and David Gere. (Eds.). (2003). *Taken by surprise: A dance improvisation reader*. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press.
- Other materials as selected by the instructor

## Course Requirements and Policies: Expectations

#### Student will:

- Attend classes regularly, be prepared with your assignments, be on time and ready to
  work until class is dismissed; (note that unless previously approved by the instructor, any
  lateness or early class departure will affect your grade).
- Maintain a professional working attitude.
- Participate in all in class activities, present and engaged mentally and physically.
- Commit to full-bodied physicality, mental flexibility, and heightening your awareness of body alignment, timing, and the clarity of spatial pathways.
- Observe dance class etiquette (cell phone off, dress code, lateness policy, etc.)
- Welcome and strive to apply the corrections given and the concepts discussed in class.

## **Assignments**

#### Journals

You are required to keep and share a once-weekly <u>visual journal</u> where you will find, retrieve, or create a series of visuals that capture or EXTEND the reactions, observations, ideas, and/or inspirations, <u>you had in a class improvisation or upon reflection after class</u>. Bring your journal to class to share every Tuesday.

#### Find visual images that can approximate, recall, or <u>extend</u>:

- Awarenesses you sensed.
- A movement dynamic you experienced—or string of dynamics
- A feeling or emotion you felt.
- A reminder of something familiar.
- Geometric shapes or lines.
- Layers of thoughts, memories
- A story you recalled
- Any other images deepening your work/personal discoveries in class
- Wildcard!

The drawings, photos, images, memories, quotes, etc. you share can be physical or on your phone or computer—or a mix. If well done, your visual journals can form the basis for some class exercises or projects—we'll experiment!

#### **Projects**

The thoughtfulness and creativity of your journal entries can enrich your Midterm and Final projects which will draw upon site specific, specific theme, character, prop, or other conceptual parameters. In both projects you will pay close attention to honesty, detail, and full physical commitment and make bold choices. Our framing of the midterm and, especially, the final projects will evolve and your work does over the course of the semester—below you will see our basic outlines at this time:

#### **Midterm Project**

Your Midterm project tasks you to work in small groups to collaboratively build an improvisational score based on the physical and emotional attributes you will note in a video we will watch and discuss. Your ideas will be formalized into a guiding question/ set of questions or "score" which communicates clearly to the performers of your group and guides the movement choices, the energy and development of the performance, in interaction with a particular environment you create or imagine. We will co-create the midterm project rubric to evaluate your project.

#### **Final Project**

Your Final project will challenge you to collaboratively create a fresh, meticulously constructed and scored (but not choreographed) improvisational performance, drawing upon a space, work of art, architectural environment a guiding question you will pose in response. The projects will be shown in duets, trios, quintets, and large groups will clearly draw upon your team's selection of the techniques, concepts, and improvisational methods learned in class and, perhaps, draw upon your most stirring journal entries. As relates to the work of art or architectural environment you selected, your movement choices cohere to your concept but, as appropriate to you concept, you may quote one or numerous styles of dance (Step, postmodern/contemporary dance, salsa, contact improvisation, West African, etc.) and/or pedestrian movement. clearly articulated in time and space to create a one-of-a kind tapestry in performance. We will co-create the final project rubric to evaluate your project.

## Attendance Policy

For all DAA studio classes that meet two times a week:

- Students can take two 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 for unexcused absences 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, two unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.
- Tardy Policy: You are late after roll has been taken/class has begun.
  - Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
  - There will be a five-minute grace period for roll-taking.
  - Three tardies of regular class meetings equal one unexcused absence.

## Make-Up Policy

Excused absences (those that can documented accd. to University of Florida policy including <a href="https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/">https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/</a> Infirmary); <a href="https://dso.ufl.edu/safety-care/">https://dso.ufl.edu/safety-care/</a> (Dean of Students), may be made-up in the following manner:

- Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
- For both majors and non-majors, should you be unable to dance but still able to attend, you may 'actively' observe class for full credit only <u>once in a semester</u> by submitting an observation paper due at the end of the 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 projected absences, make-ups, or possible withdrawal from the class.

**Late assignments:** Unless otherwise planned, all homework assignments are expected at the beginning of class on the date due. An asst. after the due date does not fulfill the assignment.

#### Studio Rules of Conduct

Ringing cell phones, text notifications, texting, eating, etc. are disruptive to classroom activity. Please be considerate. In effort to keep our dance space a peaceful, safe, and clean environment for our students we ask you to observe the following:

- No gum. This is also for safety reasons since we don't want dancers choking.
- No talking, eating, 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.
- Turn off and put away all cell phones <u>before</u> entering the studio. Please make this a
  habit. All phone calls and texting must take place <u>outside</u> of the studio and NEVER
  during class time.
- If you have an emergency situation, inform the instructor prior to the start of class so that accommodations that do not disturb the class may be made.

**Note:** To help organize accommodations, students should inform the professor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance during the 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 verifying that an absence from class is warranted and when the return to class activity is expected, doctor's 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). Advance notice to the professor is requested whenever possible.

## 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.

	Weekly Schedule		
	Remember to bring	g in visual journals for Tuesday classes	
Week	Topic Covered	Additional Info	
Week One	Introduction  Improvisation in Everyday Life—nurturing (1) connection to ourselves and (2) the paradox of using limits and parameters to expand freedom and imagination.  Limits: "The chair," "The phone number," Positive/negative space, etc.	See Canvas for asst.	
Week Two	Postmodern dance – improv onstage (history)  Pedestrian movement	On Thursday, Jan. 19, class meets in G-6 for dance film talk by Matt & Colette No asst.	

Weekly Schedule		
Remember to bring in visual journals for Tuesday classes		
Week Three	Mining our habits – shedding Mining our preferences – embracing	See Canvas for asst.
Week Four	Sensing and responding – self, pair  Sensing and responding – small groups, ensemble	See Canvas for midterm prep asst.
Week Five	Contact improvisation (history) Weight sharing basics	See Canvas for asst.
Week Six	Sensing and responding in contact – pair with partner or props (real and imagined)  Sensing and responding in contact – with small groups or props/environments	See Canvas for midterm asst.
Week Seven	Midterm projects preparation	
Week Eight	Midterm projects presented and evaluated	See Canvas for asst.
Week Nine	Harn Site visit (works and spaces)	See Canvas for asst.
Week Ten	Harn Site visit (begin final prep)	See Canvas for asst.

Weekly Schedule			
	Remember to bring in visual journals for Tuesday classes		
Week Eleven	Discuss performances: student will show movement signatures  Freestyling/Riffing in the Cypher	See Canvas for asst.	
Week Twelve	Improvisation & Social Dance I Improvisation & Social Dance II	See Canvas for asst.	
Week Thirteen	Lessons from dance and music of Africa and the diaspora  Music & dance improvisation		
Week Fourteen	Final projects preparation	Please submit Student evaluation by this week	
Week Fifteen	Final projects presented at the Harn TBD and evaluated	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION	
Week Sixteen	Putting it all together: semester in review		

# Calendar is subject to change

## Grading Criteria

Your final grade is determined by your performance on a number of different tasks:	
Midterm Project	15%

Final Project	25%
Journal	10%
Active Participation*	50%
TOTAL	100%
Periodic feedback on participation will be given. Simple, come to class, participate! ©	

Letter grades translate to percentages as follows:	
95 – 100	A
90 – 94	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	В
80 - 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	С
70 – 73	C-
65 – 69	D+
60 – 64	D
59 and below	F

## **Active Participation**

Participation is expected to be consistent, informed,

thoughtful, and considerate and will be evaluated using the rubric below. I will inform you of your participation grade to date when mid-term exams are returned and schedule a conference if you are earning below 70% of the possible points.

NOTE If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion or movement exercises, e.g., language or physical challenges, or other, etc., see the professor as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Class Participation Grading Rubric				
	Exemplary (90-100%)	High Quality (80-89%)	Average (70-79%)	Needs Improvement (0-69%)
Prepared and Informed: Shows evidence of having done and integrated the assigned work.	Consistently well prepared with all assignments completed; demonstrated preparation; recalls/embodies relevant details and aspects of previous discussions, classwork +assignments.	Arrives fully prepared with most of the work due most of the time; partially prepared at other times. On some occasions recalls and/or embodies details and aspects of previous discussions, classwork + assignments.	Often demonstrates completion of assignments and readings; often has not completed. May recall and/or embody details and aspects of previous discussions, classwork + assignments, if reminded.	Exhibits little evidence of having read, thought about or embodied the assigned material. Little evidence of integrating the work.
Student Initiative	Ready to work! Proactively and regularly contributes to class discussion + movement exercises; initiates discussion on issues related to class topic.	Ready to work! Sometimes contributes proactively to class discussion +movement exercises; asks questions and responds to direct questions. Poses questions about the class materials.	Ready to work-—but sometimes distracted from the task at hand. Contributes to class discussion + movement exercises; seldom volunteers but responds to direct questions	Does not contribute positively to class discussion or movement exercises; or fails to offer relevant responses to direct questions

Collaborative Mindset: partner and teamwork.	Displays strong commitment to and shared responsibility for class/group-based work. Takes the perspective of others into account. Shows evidence of having understood + considered issues raised.	Displays commitment to class/group- based work. Takes the perspective of others into account. Shows evidence of having understood + considered issues raised.	In most aspects, displays commitment to class/group- based work. Takes the perspective of others into account. Shows evidence of having understood + considered issues raised.	Shows only minor commitment to class/group- based work. Does not take the perspective of others into account. Does not show evidence of having understood + considered issues raised.
Rigor and Relevance of Contributions	Evidence based comments— insightful +constructive— balanced between general impressions, opinions + thoughtful analysis; uses appropriate terminology. Poses coherent questions about the class materials.	Comments mostly insightful + constructive, occasionally too general or not relevant; mostly uses appropriate terminology. Poses questions about the class materials.	Comments are sometimes insightful + constructive, with occasional signs of insight; comments often general and rarely use appropriate vocabulary. Poses few questions about the class materials.	Comments are uninformed or counter- productive; rarely uses appropriate vocabulary; heavy reliance on uninformed opinion + personal.
Communication: Straightforward + open communication with peers + professor in all participatory projects, classwork + assignments.	Consistent and reliably straightforward + open communication with peers + professor in all aspects of participatory projects (group assignments), classwork + assignments.	Straightforward + open communication with peers + professor in all aspects of participatory projects (group assignments), classwork + group assignments), assignments.	Straightforward + open communication with peers + professor in most aspects of participatory projects (group assignments), classwork + assignments.	Straightforward + open communication with peers + professor in some aspects of participatory projects (group assignments), classwork + assignments.

## Important Policies

- 1. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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.
- 2. 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 gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/
- 3. <a href="http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/">http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/</a> Note that students cannot share or publish recordings without instructor permission.
- 4. For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at: <a href="http://helpdesk.ufl.edu">http://helpdesk.ufl.edu</a>, (352) 392-HELP (4357), Walk-in: HUB 132. Any requests for

make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk 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.

- 5. All Fall 2022 courses delivered through any means (face-to-face, online, etc.) use the Canvas learning management system for the following purposes: Distributing and storing the course syllabus, along with any syllabus updates, and maintaining student grades. The only exceptions are courses set up as individual academic experiences such as directed independent study, supervised research, supervised teaching, and thesis or dissertation credits.
- 6. Additionally, I am also using Canvas for posting announcements, providing access to course materials, adding deadlines to the calendar, maintaining communication relevant to all students, and scheduling Zoom meetings. These practices will help ensure that students who may be geographically dispersed and taking courses asynchronously have access to course content and provide an extra layer of security for Zoom sessions. Doing so will also allow for uniformity of the student course experience and will facilitate the process of making up of course work missed because of illness, periods of self-isolation, and other excused absences.
- 7. If you are doing research from **OFF campus**, you have two options for getting access to many of the UF library materials: the UF VPN or the proxy server. Here's how to connect to the VPN <a href="https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/">https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/</a>. If you are having trouble, please call the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: (352) 392-HELP (4357).

## Campus Resources

#### **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <a href="http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/">http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/</a>, 1-352-392-1575; and the University Police Department: 1-352-392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

#### The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <a href="http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

#### <u>Hitchcock Field & Fork Food Pantry</u>

"The Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry is a resource on the University of Florida campus committed to eradicating food insecurity... If you or anyone you know is experiencing food insecurity, the Pantry is a resource to visit. They offer non-perishable food, toiletries and fresh vegetables grown at the Field and Fork Gardens to provide a well-balanced diet...Guests do not need any proof of need to use this resource, all that is needed is a Gator 1 ID to prove you are a current Student, Faculty or Staff at the University of Florida."

**Location** 520 Newell Drive (Off of North Lawn) **Website** https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu

Contact 352-294-3601 Instagram @fieldandforkuf

## SPRING 23 DANCE CALENDAR (subject to change)

Dance majors are required to attend the Monday, January 9, Dance Area Welcome Back Meeting – 6:30pm-8pm (BA Focused Welcome Back Meeting immediately to follow—if you are a BA with a question regarding the meeting, please contact Dr. Rachel Carrico rcarrico@arts.ufl.edu)

BFA dance majors are required—and all majors are invited— to attend (Tentative): BFA Showcase auditions
In Studio G-6 from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday, January 11

You are required to attend one SoTD Dance 2023 and one BFA Showcase

You are required to attend two UFPA shows of your choice

On January 19, Dance Improvisation class meets in G-6 for the Matt and Colette talk on dance film (not SOC 2250)

You are required to attend ACDA student showing on Friday, March 10 at 10:40 am (if you have a class conflict, please let me know ASAP, thank you.)

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	
18-20	Orange Grove Dance in Residence for Ric Rose Alumni Award	
19	Matt & Colette talk on Dance/Film G-11 12:50-2:20 pm	
	Ric Rose Alumni Award Presentation 5:30-7pm	
20	Matt & Colette Orange Grove Master Class	
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	1	
3	DANCE AREA MEETING - 1-2:30pm	
	UFPA Performance: STOMP, 7:30pm	
8	DANCE 2023 PRODUCTION MEETING 4-5PM, ZOOM	
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 Area 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	ACDA Preview Showing
	10	BFA SHOWCASE LOAD IN AND AUDIO RING-OUT, 9AM-5PM, G-6
	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
	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
	31	DANCE AMERICAN I TIM
	APRIL	
1	Spring 23 BF	FA SHOWCASE (CONTINUED), STRIKE 4/2 5:30-7:30PM G-6
	3	DANCE DARK DAY
	10-14	CRAS (CRAS MEETINGS SCHEDULE TBA)
	14	DANCE AREA MEETING - 1-2:30PM
	22	<u>UFPA Performance: Ahuti: The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble in collaboration with</u>
		The Chitrasena Dance Company, 7:30pm
	24	FINAL UNSHOWING - 6:30-8:30PM, G-6

Dr. Joan | Spring 2023 | Dance Improv | DAA 2621

26 LAST DAY OF CLASSES

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)

\*LIKE ALL SYLLABI, THIS SYLLABUS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT and EXPECTED TO CHANGE. I am making you aware that I may possibly need some accommodations to improve your learning opportunities this semester. Any changes will be communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be fully expected. Thank you! Meanwhile, I invite YOU to take a proactive role in your participation in this course and to be in active communication with me throughout the semester! Your creative ideas, questions, and suggestions for how we, as a community, LEARN, MOVE, and GROW are always warmly welcomed! No cap!

#### <u>Fin</u>

(Remember to end at an unexpected place!)