DAA 2104: CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 1 | FALL 2023

COURSE INFORMATION

Day: M/W | Time: 3:00-4:55pm Place: Constans Theater G-10 Instructor: Brianna Taylor

Office Hours: by appointment on Zoom or after class

Email: btaylor@arts.ufl.edu

*Note: Fridays are area-wide master classes with rotating faculty and guest artists. BA's and minors are not required to attend but are invited if you desire! 10:40-12:15 in G6 (Constans Theater Building)

Email Policy: Use ONLY your <u>UFL.EDU</u> email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.

Syllabi can be found here http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/

Lab Fees can be located at http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/

Canvas (e-learning): http://elearning.ufl.edu

Required Texts: All required readings and video viewings will be posted to Canvas.

Required Performances: Dance Majors are required to see the SoTD Dance performance *Agbedidi*, as well as the Dance Area works-in-progress showings ("Unshowings"). Proof of attendance is required. More details in course assignments and important dates sections.

Canvas: This course is set up on Canvas (e-learning). All students must have access to Canvas on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. Assignments will be due via Canvas submission, as well as in person. Class announcements, course schedule and timeline will also be posted on Canvas. For help with Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

COURSE INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTIONS

CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 1/DAA 2104 COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Credits: 2; Experience in contemporary approaches to dance technique, readings, observations and movement exploration. *Prerequisite: DAA1000 or audition*.

INSTRUCTOR INTRO:

Welcome! I am excited to dance with you and co-create our learning community! In this class I will offer movement practices and explorations inspired by my eclectic dance training and movement history, along with complimentary projects and readings to uplift your learning of the scope of contemporary dance. A typical class will include a few moments for community check in and personal centering, grounding and warming practices to awaken our expansive bodies, improvisational offerings to open creative possibilities and choice making, along with choreographed phrasework. We will work together to create a space that honors our community and collaboration, celebrating the uniqueness each of us brings, supported by deep listening to self and others, physical rigor, focus, playfulness, and the desires of each of YOU as part of the learning community.

A NOTE ON MY HISTORY AND CLASS OFFERINGS:

As a mover and educator, I am interested in embodied presence, approaching dance from a somatic perspective, and as a moving human in the world that has an affinity for and training in various dance styles. My movement background began as a gymnast, expanded into various modern and contemporary dance styles, and has been enriched deeply by West African dance, Afro-Cuban styles, Salsa, Flamenco, Butoh, Tai Chi, and Yoga. I integrate

the somatic approaches of Bartenieff Fundamentals and Alexander Technique with my long-time practice and teaching of Yoga. I am an avid improvisor and believe improvisation can provide many possibilities for growth. I am excited by ideas within Ideokinesis, by the possibility of visualizing movement/alignment/anatomy to support the depth of our awareness of our dancing bodies. I value the possibilities for rigor inside of various forms, and how this looks different depending on the task at hand. My teaching reflects an eclectic blend of my moving history, and I honor all of the teachers who I've had the privilege to learn from along the way. I will name these teachers where appropriate through our process, to the best of my ability. I hope to bring in guest teachers to support and expand our learning of some of the styles embedded in my movement. I will also integrate readings, video viewings, reflective writing and discussion as modalities for deepening our learning.

CLASSROOM CULTURE OF CARE:

I invite that we integrate a culture of care in this class (and beyond). For me dance holds so much possibility for connection and growth, as it provides a frame to hold the eclectic nature of our lived embodied experience, both in various styles of dance, and as a moving being in the world. I am interested in your lived embodied experience, as much as I'm excited to share with you mine. I am invested in creating a classroom culture where we learn from and with each other, hold each other with care, as well as with accountability to respect each other and the space we occupy. While we hold specific roles as teacher/student in this context, I'd like to consider myself always a student, recognizing I have as much to learn from you as you from me. Together we will create community agreements, where we all hold each other in mutual respect and accountability. I share some of my expectations here in this syllabus. I look forward to hearing about yours, and to co-creating our classroom community agreements and culture together.

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT:

This course aims to meet the call of the College of the Arts Mission Statement.

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

During and upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1. Develop and increase kinesthetic and clear anatomic understanding through taking class.
- 2. Demonstrate dynamic alignment, maintain whole-body and body part clarity of spatial orientation in movement, and refine the sense of the body in relation to itself and to the space.
- 3. Refine the sense of initiation and articulation of movement.
- 4. Demonstrate an understanding and exploration of qualitative dimensions of movement.
- 5. Enhance learning, perception, and self-awareness.
- 6. Learn to identify bodily tendencies and habits, and strategize new potential pathways for movement efficiency to support your dancing growth.
- 7. Broaden ability to hear/feel rhythm and nuances of music and demonstrate an understanding of phrasing and musicality with more sophistication.
- 8. Build strength, flexibility, range of joint motion and endurance, and to understand that individual capacity for all are unique--explore your limits.
- 9. Expand your performance presence and skills: positive energy, enthusiasm, concentration, mindfulness, willingness to learn, challenge preconceived and rigid ideas, **leave mind open for shifts and changes in your understanding of what dance in general is "about."**
- 10. Refine personal expression and artistry.
- 11. Observe and write about your own progress and challenges in the course as well as write critically and

- analytically about dance contexts from technique, to performance, to choreography.
- 12. Think creatively through spontaneous solutions to improvisational prompts, and/or within a given technique/exercise.
- 13. Think intuitively and listen to the body, make responsible decisions to take care of the body within a given exercise.
- 14. Maintain a commitment to your growth by observing carefully, listening actively, practicing on the side, witnessing your peers, expressing your thoughts verbally, and assessing your own and others' progress as assigned.
- 15. Demonstrate development of professional skills, independent work practices within class, and responsible preparation before and after class.

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

To facilitate and promote the Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes, as the instructor I will:

- 1. Design a class order, progression, and exercises that develop and support said learning objectives.
- 2. Encourage a sustainable and compassionate class community where students can take risks and make mistakes free from unneeded stress, judgment or harsh criticism.
- 3. Demonstrate and embody class material as clearly as possible attending to specific details and qualities I would like to see.
- 4. Explain concepts and answer questions thoroughly.
- 5. Observe your daily work in class and make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals through group and individual assessments.
- 6. Provide honest and specific assessment and clear communication in class and through email and Canvas correspondence.
- 7. Provide space and time in class for questions and the working through of concepts including practicing peer assessment and verbal reflections.
- 8. Be available for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts and progress in class.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your proficiency with the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade. Your attendance record, daily class work, written assignments/reflections and overall progress will also contribute to your final grade.

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through:

- Classwork and Participation (50 points): Your active participation and engagement is expected and
 essential to your learning in this course, will make up the majority of your grade, and is based on the
 continuous assessment of the following (*these guidelines are used by Dance Area faculty):
 - ARTISTRY
 - Musicality and Rhythm: student understands timing in movement and movement phrasing, demonstrates clarity of rhythmic patterning, demonstrates precise and appropriate response to musical stimulus
 - Performance Quality: student executes movement with confidence, demonstrate the ability to explore dynamic range with distinct clarity.

EMBODIMENT

- Kinesthetic Awareness: students are able to integrate a high level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches to the body and movement practice, including the use of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion. In addition, students are able to use a basic vocabulary in musculoskeletal description of self and other bodies.
- Movement Execution: Students are able to safely and accurately execute movement of moderate to high complexity, paying attention to weight transfer and detail.

 Energy and Conditioning: Students are able to utilize and develop a high level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support, as well as energetic modulation and groundedness.

COMMUNICATION

- Student demonstrates an ability to articulate ideas with clarity and express critical thought.
- Student demonstrates an ability to listen to themselves and others, with respect for differing opinions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Student takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus;
- Students demonstrate commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmates versus a select few as the course progresses;
- Student shows active engagement physically, including volunteering to show/demonstrate/lead;
- Student commits to individual and shared responsibility for class/group based work.

*a personal assessment of the above will be used in conversation with my own to determine grade.

2. Beginning of Semester Letter/Reflection Paper (3 points):

• 2-3 page reflection paper on your movement history and goals for this class. Details to be provided on Canvas.

3. Discussion Forums (12 points):

• Four Canvas discussions (3 points each) reflecting on short readings, videos and prompts, in support of your learning of concepts in this course. Details to be provided on Canvas.

4. Midterm (15 points):

 Movement study/choreography project and 2-3 page reflection/assessment paper. We will also meet one-on-one for midterm conferences. Some class time will be offered to work on this. More details to be given at mid-term.

5. Concert Attendance and Paper (5 points):

Attend UF Dance production Agbedidi and write a thoughtful reflection (approx. 1 page)
highlighting what stood out to you about the movement, performance, and overall presentation, in
relation to concepts and your learning in this course. Attendance at TWO Dance Area
UnShowings are also a part of this grade.

6. Final (15 points):

• Embodied Research/Personal Practice/Sharing OR Group Choreography project and 2-3 page paper reflecting back on your goals from the beginning of the semester, your process/learning, and your ongoing goals as a dancer. Some class time will be offered to work on this. More details to be given at final.

ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS:

- Attend all classes in both body and mind and be fully present and engaged in the class.
- Maintain a positive, focused attitude towards your work in class.
- Fully attend to movement material presented and maintain a willingness to experience and explore new ways of moving.
- Be present in the classroom at all times through practice, exploration and observation. It is important to note that we can learn a great deal from observing others.
- Use each class period as a laboratory, and an opportunity to discover more about yourself and your learning process.
- Please respect the studio, your classmates and the space you are occupying. The classroom is a community of learners and you should feel pride in enhancing the growth of that community through your awareness.

GRADE SCALE

Total: 100 percentage points

A 93-100 points

A- 90-92

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW/FALL 2023 DANCE CALENDAR

*a detailed calendar with assignment due dates will be provided separately

August

- 23 Classes begin
- 23 6:30 pm 8 pm in G-6 Welcome Meeting (*Required for Majors, everyone invited and encouraged to attend)
- 24 4:00-5:00pm SoTD Convocation (Black Box?)
- 24 5:30-6:30pm G-6 Agbedidi 2023 Auditions
- 28 6:30 8:30 pm BFA choreographer audition

September

- 14 12:50 2:20 pm G-6 Chad Gaspard Lecture/Dance Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
- 15 10:40 12:25 pm G-6 Chad Gaspard Friday Master Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
- 15 6:00 7:30 pm G-6 Ric Rose Award Presentation and reception

October

- 6 Homecoming (no classes)
- 13 1:00pm 4:00pm Dance Area Retreat (curriculum: Al in dance curriculum modification)
- 15 7:30pm Nobuntu @ UFPA
- 20 9am 4:30pm BFA Program Auditions
- 23 6:30 8:30pm Unshowing #1 (tentative)
- 26 8:00pm Limon Dance Company at Santa Fe College
- 27 Young Dancer Workshop classes @ UF 9a-4p & 7:30p Showcase A at Santa Fe College
- 27 7:30pm DANB Swan Lake @ UFPA
- 28 Young Dancer Workshop classes @ UF 9a-4p & 7:30p Showcase B at Santa Fe College
- 30 6:30 8:30pm Unshowing #2 (tentative)

November

- 1 7:30pm Ndlovu Youth Choir @ UFPA
- 10 Veterans Day (no classes)
- 13 17 CRAs (1st Years, 3rd Years and 1st Semester Transfers) (Tentative)
- 22 26 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 1+2 7:30pm AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
- 3 2pm AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
- 6 CLASSES END
- 7-8 Reading Days
- 11 CRA Graduating Senior (Tentative)
- 9-15 FINAL EXAMS

^{**}Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

DRESS POLICY:

- · Attire which is suitable for movement
- Hair needs to be out of the dancer's face
- No hats (unless specific to a choreographic study)
- No large jewelry, necklaces & watches
- No chewing gum

STUDIO POLICIES:

- No eating or drinking in the studio, besides water
- Please bring a water bottle to every class
- Personal belongings should be pushed to the sides and out of the usable dancing space
- Silence your cell phones and notifications completely before class begins, and refrain from using them during class time. If there is a reason you need to check your phone during class time, please communicate that with me.

**Please note that while UF policy allows students to record classes to support your learning process, you may not post anything publicly without permission. You may not record, photograph or post any other students without their permission. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

SOTD ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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 participation portion of your 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.

**Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time. Excessive lateness or leaving early will add up to an absence and could affect your grade.

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.

DANCE TECHNIQUE CLASS MAKE-UP POLICY:

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for absences for which you have not communicated with the professor.
- Absences from Written Exams, Quizzes, Mid-Terms, and/or Finals may only be made up with approved documentation
- To earn credit (amount of credit determined by the instructor) for an excused absence you must do two things:
 - o Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
 - Make-up the class with an approved assignment submitted on the required date. If the assignment is to attend another class as a make-up, it must be the same technical level, or lower; student must request permission of that instructor.
 - Two make-ups will be allowed if needed.

In the UF Dance Program, three unexcused absences will reduce your grade one-letter grade (i.e., from B to C). Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers your grade by half letter grade (i.e., from C to C-). Five unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course. A student with medical documentation may apply to UF for Medical Withdrawal.

STUDENT INJURY AND ILLNESS POLICY:

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.

FIRST: Please contact the Dance Wellness Clinic through the Canvas site. The protocol for accessing appointments is here: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414412/discussion_topics/2671475

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:

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

CLASS OBSERVATION POLICY:

There might be a situation where you're not feeling well or injured, but are well enough to come to class to observe. In general, ONE observation day is allowed. In case of unforeseen circumstances, observation days will be discussed on a case by case basis. **If a student is observing:** you are required to take notes on what you're witnessing, and reflect on how observing is supporting your physical learning in class. Please do not solely regurgitate what we're doing, but offer your reflections and what you are learning from watching. Notes are to be turned in at the end of the class period in person or via email.

STUDENT ONLINE 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 https://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 https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

CONTENT WARNING: In this course, we may cover content and materials that some might find difficult. It is important that in an artistic discipline course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

*SYLLABUS NOTE/DISCLAIMER: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. The constitution of the class cohort, unforeseen events, and schedule changes may dictate shifts. Any amendment to the syllabus will be emailed to you, updated on Canvas, and be clearly stated and available.

UF POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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.

ETIQUETTE/COMMUNICATION COURTESY:

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. An email is not a text message nor a DM. Please begin emails with a formal greeting and

avoid unprofessional colloquialisms. For UF guidelines on "netiquette": http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact <u>umatter@ufl.edu</u>, 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/
- Dean of Students: http://dso.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. Or go to http://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/

***If you have **ANY** questions about the syllabus don't hesitate to ask me at any time during the semester. I look forward to co-creating and learning together this semester!