CONTEMPORARY BALLET PRACTICES 3 – DAA 3208 FALL 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 8:45 – 10:15 AM, Friday masterclass required: 10:40-12:15
Place: T/TH G-06, F 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: T/TH: 11-12:30 PM and Fridays by appointment.
Also available through Zoom: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5885911063
Office Phone: 352-273-0522

REQUIRED TEXT:
Readings from various sources will be provided digitally/free of charge. TBD.

RECOMMENDED TEXT FOR VOCABULARY:
TECHNICAL MANUAL AND DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL BALLET by Gail Grant

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
DAA 3208 Credits: 2; can be repeated with change in content up to 8 credits.
Intermediate ballet technique with discussion of terminology and style. Prereq: audition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course says we’re about to do contemporary ballet practices. What does that mean? Your journey in dance is your own; each person learns and reflects learning differently.

VALUES
I believe dance class is an experimental laboratory where we explore the fundamental skill of attention/attending while experiencing lots of other things: the rigor and pleasure of moving, doubt, frustration, and confident embodiment (among many possible others). I think dance class should also be a place of humility and openness where you can trust yourself as a mover but also develop the patience to not know, make mistakes, and be radically accepting of your imperfection (the human condition).

Your experience of taking ballet class is as important as “learning the technique” (and possibly more). Only you know how and what your body feels. As the instructor, my perspective is limited; I can only see things from an observational, outside 3rd person point of view and (unless you directly tell me) have no possible way to know how you are thinking, feeling, or experiencing class. Knowing is quite different from assessing—my outside eye can be a helpful tool but I sadly can’t read minds or intentions. So the primary goal of this class is for you to pay more and more authentic attention to your own experience instead of anxious less and less attention which generally forces humans towards unconscious and possibly harmful habits. A common example is anxiously attempting to achieve a movement or step while simultaneously overriding bodily signals like musculoskeletal pain or fatigue (hoping to make the teacher “happy”).

I am not interested in the attainment of bodily shapes, ideas of perfection (which is unattainable), the “right way” to “do technique” etc. and will not teach from that vantage point. I am interested in human movement, health, and using anatomical and kinesiological knowledge and wisdom to experience freedom while dancing. Anything called technique should serve these goals.

What you can expect:

- Decentering Ballet’s primacy as the measure of overall dance skill
- Recentering priorities around Ballet as a specific physical and cultural practice that can serve these goals:
Aim: 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 accurately as is possible attending to specific details and qualities I would like to see.
4. Explain concepts and answer questions thoroughly.
5. Provide honest and specific assessment and clear communication in class and through email and Canvas correspondence.
6. Provide space and time in class for questions and the working through of concepts including practicing peer assessment.
7. Provide meaningful resources that enhance dance, writing, and historical literacies
8. Listen actively and sensitively to student suggestions, feedback, and concerns.
9. Make changes to the course that honor access, equity, student experience, and student input.
10. Include and relate to students as collaborators and decision makers in assignments and grading.

**Please note that while students will receive individual feedback as time allows, I expect the class community to take general feedback as personally applicable.**

Course Evaluation will be based in the assignments listed below. Each student’s assessment is based solely on individual level of engagement with the course material, theory and concepts and working to integrate the information at the individual’s developmental level.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATION – (values subject to change or necessary adjustments in the syllabus)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event Attendance and written response</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>instructor graded</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written response/mini research. Chosen digital or in person events.</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm Evaluation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>self graded</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10/17 and/or Thursday 10/19 filming in class - written response follows</td>
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<td><strong>Final Reflection</strong> – TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>collaboratively graded</em>*</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final written assignment reflecting on the work of the semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ballet History and/or Pedagogy Project</strong></td>
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<td>TBD – <em>class collaboration/choice</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of teaching concepts and/or historical research</td>
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<td><strong>Overall approach to class which includes:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>physical skill building, aesthetic understanding, and artistry – <em>collaborative grading</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of physical coordination/skill and artistic expression should be progressing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instructor assessment of overall course progress</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvement in all areas over the semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions to class community –</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>this grade is correlated to and affected by attendance</strong> – <em>instructor graded</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflects the kind of energy and attitude with which you approach your work and treat others</td>
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➢ **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.

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-63</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS
UF grading policy is here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/)

**Dress Policy:**
➢ Female identifying: Close fitting dancewear and soft ballet shoes. **Speak to the teacher about individual needs and if you have an interest in taking the class en pointe.**
➢ Male identifying: Close fitting shirts and leggings such as bike shorts and yoga pants. Tights not required. Ballet shoes. Recommended: dance belt.
➢ Hair must be secured and worn in a neatly and out of the face.
➢ No oversized clothing.
➢ Ankles must be visible.
➢ No large jewelry that can scratch you or catch in others' clothing or hair by mistake
➢ No chewing gum.

Course Policies:

SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE:

Dance Technique Class Attendance Guide
➢ Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
➢ Attendance is considered mandatory
➢ In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the current SoTD Handbook: https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/90100/sotd_student_handbook_ay_2022-23.pdf

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.

For classes that meet three times a week:
• Students can take 3 absences with no documentation with no penalty.
• If the fourth absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the final grade.
• Excused or unexcused, on the fourth absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student’s continued participation in the course.
• If the fifth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the final grade.
• Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material is up to the instructor’s discretion.
• Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, 5 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

Note: Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:
➢ illness (doctor’s note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted and when the return to class activity is expected, doctor name and signature)
➢ serious family emergencies
➢ special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
➢ military obligation
➢ severe weather conditions
➢ participation in official university activities such as music performances
➢ athletic competition or debate
➢ court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Students must inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Dance Technique Class – Makeup Policy
• You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
• Makeup options for absences are available across technique styles and classes. Please communicate with your instructor for approved options.
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:

- 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, the student must request permission of that instructor.

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.

Required Meetings, Auditions, and Showings:
FALL 23 DANCE CALENDAR

**August**
18 – COTA Symposium
23 – Classes begin
23 – 6:30-8pm in G-6 - Welcome Meeting
24 – 5:30-6:30 pm G-6 Agbedidi 2023 Auditions
25 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Area Faculty Meeting
28 – 6:30-8:30pm BFA choreographer audition

**September**
1 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Coordinators Meeting
8 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Area Faculty Meeting
14 – 12:50-2:20pm G-6 – Chad Gaspard Lecture/Dance Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
15 – 10:40-12:25pm G-6 – Chad Gaspard Friday Master Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
15 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Coordinators Meeting
15 – 6:00-7:30 pm G-6 – Ric Rose Award Presentation and reception
22 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Area Faculty Meeting
29 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Coordinators Meeting

**October**
6 – Homecoming (no classes)
12 – Harn Museum Nights, focus on Indigenous Culture & Art
13 – 1:00-4:00pm – Dance Area Retreat (curriculum: AI in dance curriculum modification)
15 – 7:30pm Nobuntu @ UFPA
20 – 9am-4:30pm – BFA Program Auditions
23 – 6:30-8:30 pm 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 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Coordinators Meeting
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
3 – 1:00-2:30pm – Dance Area Meeting
10 – Veterans Day (no classes)
13 – AGBEDIDI load in begins
16-17 – 6:30-10:30pm – AGBEDIDI Spacing rehearsals, G-6
17 – 1:30pm – Dance Area Faculty Meeting
19 – 6:30-10:30pm – AGBEDIDI Spacing rehearsals, G-6
20 – 6:00-9:30pm – AGBEDIDI Crew orientation, Crew Watch, G-6
22 – 26 – Thanksgiving Break
27-28 – 6:30-11:00pm – AGBEDIDI Techs #1 and #2 and Production Meeting, G-6
29-30 – 7:30-11:00pm – AGBEDIDI Dress Rehearsals #1 and #2 and Production Meeting, G-6

**December**
1 – 1:30pm – Dance Area Faculty Meeting
1 – 7:30pm – AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
2 – 7:30pm AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
3 – 2pm – AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
6 – CLASSES END
7-8 – Reading Days
9-15 – FINAL EXAMS

**Critical Response Appointments for Fall Semester TBD (will be communicated later in the semester):**
BFA seniors graduating and all Dance majors: it is your responsibility to know your schedule. **These are required meetings.**

**COURSE CALENDAR:**
Important calendar updates regarding guests will be shared as the semester progresses.

**Weeks 1-2:** establish class rhythm and applied somatic lens. This will go more slowly and we may not yet progress through an entire barre to grand allegro. Framework for Integration work on physioballs.

**Weeks 3-5:** Full barre and center with applied somatic lens. Emphases on weight shift, spatial intent, imagination, direction, "peas and applesauce"/Dart related body patterning, upper and lower coordination, dynamic/adaptive approach to balance.

**Week 6:** Full barre and center with applied somatic lens. Emphases on weight shift, spatial intent, imagination, direction, "peas and applesauce"/Dart related body patterning, upper and lower coordination, dynamic/adaptive approach to balance.

**Week 7:** Full barre and center with applied somatic lens. Emphases on weight shift, spatial intent, imagination, direction, "peas and applesauce"/Dart related body patterning, upper and lower coordination, dynamic/adaptive approach to balance.

**Week 8:** MIDTERM recording and upload, Class and work on midterm reflection, due in Week 9 or 10.
Week 9: Class discussion for pedagogy/history presentation. Form partners or groups. Work on Midterm.

Weeks 10: Class; Midterm due.

Weeks 11-12: Class and work on written response to event attendance.

Week 13: Class

Week 14: Class and THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15: Class and Final Presentations

Week 16: Class and Final Presentations

UF Policies:

Current UF Grading Policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-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 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 via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals(aa).ufl.edu/public-results/.

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.
NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:
All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

Note on in-class recording:
Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. 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

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: https://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 https://shcc.ufl.edu/

University Police Department: 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: https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/ or call 352-273-4450.

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.

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.

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.