

DAA 1000 Fundamentals of Dance Technique (3 Credits)

University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance

Fall 2025

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, faculty, and staff 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

SYLLABUS

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

PROFESSOR: Herman Ramos iheart6step@ufl.edu*

Office Hours: Before or after class by appointment

Office Phone: 352-273-0500 Main Office

*Email Policy: Please use canvas messaging or your ufl.edu email account for correspondence

CLASS MEETING LOCATIONS/MEETING TIMES

Tuesday/Thursday O'Connell Center SOC 2205 (Dance Studio)

Class# 11547 Section 1101 Period 2-3 (8:30AM-10:25AM)

[College of the Arts \(COTA\) Information](#)

[School of Theatre and Dance \(SoTD\) Information](#)

[Resources](#)

Syllabi are posted at COTA website under: *Student & Parents*: <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>

Course Materials: available on Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to dance styles from what is considered the western canon such as ballet, concert jazz, and modern as well as other popular, commercial, and social dance forms.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To learn the essentials of contemporary modern dance and to experience it personally.
- To understand the major traditional aesthetic premises and development of contemporary modern dance.
- To develop an informed view of the interaction of art and society in the 20/21st Century.
- To develop fundamental technique and performance skills.
- Demonstrate growth and progression within the following five areas of evaluation:
 - o Self-awareness—the student demonstrates an ability to retain an awareness of self while integrating their movement into spatial relationships with other persons and groups.
 - o Transitional Skills—demonstrates an understanding and dynamic use of different types of phrasing with an ability to sequence a variety of movements into an extended phrase: recognizing and moving through transitions and demonstrating follow - through of movement impulses as appropriate.
 - o Performance Quality—observable growth as a performing artist both in class and on stage.
 - o Creative Risk-taking student dares to explore new territory.
 - o Overall Improvement—student demonstrates a clear positive progression throughout the semester.
- To explore the expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- To empower the person/dancer/thinker/choreographer in each student.
- To get hands on experience with the creative process & production of contemporary dance

TEXTBOOK

A booklet of materials prepared especially for this course will be available free on Canvas.

Direct Link is: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance/downloads/syllabi.aspx>

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

UF Absence Policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Class Attendance Guide:

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the virtual classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when class begins you are marked late.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2023-24 Handbook (SoTD website) and included in this syllabus.

ABSENCES

Students can take 2 absences with no penalty. Documentation is not required for the first absence as it will be automatically excused. Each absence, after two, will be a 5-point deduction from the final grade, unless made up. (See make-up policy)

Note: 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.

MAKE-UP POLICY

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for more than 2 unexcused absences
- 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:
 - 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
 - 2) 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.

DRESS POLICY

- Attire which is form fitting & suitable for movement (Tights, Leotards, Leggings, Yoga type pants, form fitted sweatpants)
- No oversized clothing
- Shorts are not recommended
- Hair needs to be confined and out of the dancer's face (no hats)
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches

Students not in compliance with the above requirements will be considered absent from class or points deducted at instructor's discretion.

STUDIO POLICIES

- No eating or drinking in the studio, besides water
- Please bring a water bottle to every class
- Electronic devices must be placed on mute and left out of sight during class
- Personal belongings should be pushed to the sides and out of the usable dancing space

Communication is very important. Please come to me with all questions and concerns throughout the semester. You can make an appointment or talk to me immediately before or after class about your progress or if you have any questions. If questions pertain to the information in this syllabus, I ask that you read your syllabus thoroughly before asking an intelligent question on clarification. You are encouraged to ask questions during class and if you need or want more feedback from the instructor, please do not be afraid to ask. Remember, unless you communicate and come to me directly, I will assume that you are satisfied and happy. I want you to have a great dance experience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (50 points)

Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and to contribute in group discussions. If a student is disruptive during class (talking, providing negative energy, or simply not participating) he/ she will lose participation points. These points can be deducted at the teacher's discretion.

Learning Community

As we cultivate our classroom practice, we will critically evaluate our thoughts, opinions, and assumptions. As a learning community, I ask that we collectively invest in an environment in which all class members feel empowered to physically and intellectually take risks, ask questions, experiment, and grow. Dance practices frequently intersect with the difficult and at times violent pasts and presents of inequalities related to race, gender, sexuality, class and ability. Feelings of discomfort can at times accompany new physical practices as well as ideas. I ask that, as part of your rigorous engagement with the course, you meet the material as best you can and allow others the space to do the same. Please consult with me should any questions or concerns around course content or dialogue arise.

- Online Learning Community: Our learning community includes communication outside of class. Your commitment to creating a positive learning community includes not only how you interact in class but also how you interact with and/or represent other members of our class online via in threaded discussions on Canvas, social media, and other platforms. Please use formal, respectful, and professional standards when corresponding with me and with each other via email and/or Canvas.
- Email: 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>

Late Policy

If a student arrives to class after the start time, the student will be considered tardy. **Each tardy will result in a 1-point deduction.** If a student is more than ten minutes late for a movement-based class, they must receive instructor permission to observe class. The student will write a one-page observation paper due at the beginning of the next class to receive attendance credit.

Observation Papers Observing class is only acceptable if the student is ill, injured, or tardy and gets instructor permission. If the student is observing class, they must take observation notes, which will be due by the end of the week via Canvas. These notes should not be a regurgitation of the steps performed in class but rather **observations of what you learned as a witness to dance.** Observation papers must be submitted via Canvas in the “Participation/ Observation Papers” module by Sunday (midnight) the same week. The student is only permitted to observe class up to ONE time during the semester

Online quizzes (20 points)

There will be two online quizzes that cover course modules, videos, and in-class discussion. An exam review will be given during the week of each quiz.

Movement Presentations (20 points)

Students will be asked to present two movement showings throughout the course. These showings will demonstrate learned movement vocabulary, authentic movement generated by you and/ or group members and will draw from additional sources offered through class modules and discussions. Full details will be offered on Canvas and through live discussions.

Performance Review (10 points)

Students will be asked to view an online or virtual dance performance and write a review of their observations. Performance options and writing guidelines will be presented in Canvas.

GRADING POLICY

ASSIGNMENT	DUE	POINTS
Participation	Ongoing	50 points
Written Exam #1	TBD	10 points
Midterm Movement Presentation	TBD	10 points
Written Exam #2	TBD	10 points
Final Movement Presentation	TBD	10 points
Performance Review	TBD	10 points
Total		100 Points

POINT GRADE SCALE

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

Extra Credit

Extra credit is only offered in extreme circumstances. Do not expect that extra credit will automatically be available to you. If emergencies arise, please talk to the instructor.

****A note on choreography and plagiarism: Plagiarism violates the UF Honor Code and can result in Suspension or Dismissal. Plagiarism means intentionally or unintentionally using another's words or ideas without giving credit. When using ideas or exact words from another person you must give citations for the source(s), even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it. In addition, as we are working with aspects of movement composition that may often make reference to other works of dance, no unaccredited lifting, copying, or sampling of dance material from YouTube or other sources will be permissible. These kinds of actions/uses are subject to penalties for plagiarism.***

Spontaneity: Due to the experiential nature of this course, the instructor retains the right to alter the syllabus as needed to accommodate class pace, interests, and/or special opportunities that may arise.

Respect: In order for all to have a positive experience in this course, we must all demonstrate respect for each other and the people involved in site observations. *This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*

SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Intro/ Welcome

Week 2 - Modern Movement (Codified Movement and Common Exercises)

Week 3 - Modern Movement (Codified Movement and Common Exercises)

Week 4 - Modern Movement (Judson Church and Improvisation)

Week 5- Modern Movement (Judson Church and Improvisation)

Week 6 - Modern Movement (Contemporary Applications and Gestures)

Week 7- Modern Movement (Contemporary Applications and Gestures)

Week 8 - Modern Movement (Exam and Midterm Movement Reviews)

Week 9 - Ballet

Week 10- Ballet

Week 11- Ballet +Jazz

Week 12 - Jazz

Week 13- Jazz + African Diaspora

Week 14 - Thanksgiving Break

Week 15- Jazz + African Diaspora

Week 16- Last week of class + STUDY DAYS

****THIS IS SYLLABUS AND COURSE CONTENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/> - 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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-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 in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

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

[<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

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.

<https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy)

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.](#)

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.

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.](#)

Dean of Students: [Areas and Service](#)

UF Online: [One Stop](#)