

DAA 2105 CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 2

Storytelling Concepts as a Lens to Explore Contemporary Movement
Section #19569

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Meeting Times: Monday & Wednesday Period 4 &5 (10:40am-12:35pm)

No Classes: September 1, Labor Day

November 24-29, Thanksgiving Break

Location: SOC 2205 O'Connell Center Studio

Class Dates: August 21- December 3, 2025

Office Hours: E-mail me to schedule an appointment.

**Email Policy: Preferred email correspondence through INBOX in CANVAS. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.*

Course Description

Experience in contemporary approaches to dance technique, readings, observations and movement exploration. (credits: 2)

Prerequisite: DAA 2104 or Dance Major or minor.

Course Objectives

- Approach contemporary dance practices through the lens of storytelling as an art form.
- Introduce and experience movement vocabulary with an emphasis on coordination, rhythm, musicality, being grounded, engagement of and power coming from the core, style and presence.
- Utilize anatomical and kinesthetic awareness to move with efficiency and safety.
- Engage the written and spoken word as a creative catalyst for analysis,

embodiment and reflection on movement.

- Become curious about how personal background, interest and current practice intersect and influence artistic development and choice.
- Employ tools and devices to add intrigue, dynamics and individuality to performance and enhance the development of structure, point of view, perspective and voice in choreographic creation and collaboration.
- Investigate the ways movement vocabulary and narrative interact to imbue meaning and relevance into characters for the performing artist and influence the audience experience.
- Witness live performance of contemporary dance to reflect, connect and discuss the variations in vocabulary, creative process and storytelling.

Course Timetable

** Disclaimer: Timetable may be adjusted throughout the semester. Please maintain attendance and check in with Canvas for updates or announcements. No assignments and deadlines will be moved to an earlier date than listed, but may be extended.*

Week 1 8/25	Introduction: review syllabus, meet and greet, Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence.
Week 2 9/1	No Class Labor Day Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence. Learn phrasework and repertoire.
Week 3 9/8	Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence. Learn phrasework and repertoire.
Week 4 9/15	Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence. Learn phrasework and repertoire. Movement Study #1 due 9/19

Week 5 9/22	Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence. Learn phrasework and repertoire.
Week 6 9/29	Warm Up, Embody movement vocabulary with Emphasis on Coordination, Rhythm, Musicality, Staging, Being Grounded, Engagement and Power from the Core, Style and Presence. Learn phrasework and repertoire, Introduce the layer of Character Development into phrasework
Week 7 10/6	Midterm Evaluations in class.
Week 8 10/13	View Live Dance Performance and engage in discussion and reflection. Explore new movement vocabulary and approaches to movement that emphasize improvisation, connection, partner work, tools for structure, establishing point of view, structure and manipulating vocabulary to create a personal aesthetic. PILOBOLUS EVENT 10/14 and ASSIGNMENT due 10/17
Week 9 10/20	Explore new movement vocabulary and approaches to movement that emphasize improvisation, connection, partner work, tools for structure, establishing point of view, structure and manipulating vocabulary to create a personal aesthetic.
Week 10 10/27	Engage the Written Word to dive deeper into Structure, Rhythm, Musicality, Themes and Topics of Interest in creation while continuing to utilize movement vocabulary and engage in physical practice and exploration
Week 11 11/3	Incorporate all Class Elements into Group Phrase Work. Explore and implement dynamics and surprise into movement. Movement Study #2 due 11/7
Week 12 11/10	Incorporate all Class Elements in movement practice while sharing stories of intrigue, videos clips and sources for inspiration. Begin to prepare for Final Presentation
Week 13 11/17	Warm up and work on Final Presentation Complete Discussion and Reflection Logs. Due 11/19
Week 14 11/24	NO CLASS FOR THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15 12/1	Final presentations in class. Due 12/3/25
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Course Policies

Etiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy to ensure the course is a positive experience held in a welcoming, inclusive learning environment for everyone. Please take note the class is designed to push students both mentally and physically. If you are experiencing injury or concern over your limitations, please communicate with the instructor so accommodations can be made in a timely manner.

Video Recording

There may be the use of videography to record phrasework or to upload movement into Canvas for review, evaluation or practice purposes. These videos are solely for educational purposes and it is not permitted to share outside of the class context.

Dress Policy

Please wear comfortable movement attire for movement. Dancewear or athletic wear is appropriate. Please do not wear anything too baggy or that will hinder movement, but take note there may be floor work or partner/contact work in some sessions. Hair should be worn out of the face. All large jewelry should be removed prior to class.

Attendance

- Students can take **2** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If there is a third absence 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, **4** unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

Communication is important.

Make- Up Policy

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for unexcused absences. It is important for you to be aware of content and phrase work covered while out.
- Absences from Movement Studies, Discussion, 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 in any genre; student must request permission of that instructor.

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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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

EVALUATIONS

Event Assignment * Attendance to PILOBOLUS required	20 points	Attend Pilobolus at the UF Phillips Center Tuesday October 14 Written assignment and discussion required. (Assignment information given in class and located on Canvas)
Movement Study #1	10 points	Assignment details given in class and located on Canvas. Due November 7, 2025
Movement Study #2	10 points	Assignment details given in class and located on Canvas. Due November 19, 2025

Midterm Assessment/Feedback	20 points	In Class with written or verbal feedback. Due October 6, 2025
Discussion and Reflection Logs	10 points	Assignment details given in class and located on Canvas. Due November 19, 2025
Final Project Story Solo	30 points	Culminating Movement Presentation from Storytelling Lens. Due December 3, 2025
Total Possible Points	100 points	

Instructions for assignments are located on Canvas

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

A	100-94%	A-	< 94 – 90%
B+	< 90-87%	B	< 87-84%
B-	< 84-80%	C+	< 80-77%
C	< 77-74%	C-	< 74-70%
D+	< 70-67%	D	< 67-64%
D-	< 64-61%	F	< 61-0%

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

**Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Any changes in technique exam dates due to unseen circumstances will be announced in class and posted on the dance board in a timely fashion.*

COURSE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES:

The following Level Two guidelines follow the rubric created by Dance Area faculty:

• **Embodiment**

- o KINESTHETIC AWARENESS: Students are able to integrate a moderate level of anatomical & kinesiological approaches to movement practice, including

developing sense of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.

- o MOVEMENT EXECUTION: Students are able to safely and accurately execute movement of moderate complexity with attention on weight transfer.

- o ENERGY & CONDITIONING: Students are able to utilize and develop a moderate level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support, as well as energetic modulation.

- **Artistry**

- o MUSICALITY & RHYTHM: Understands timing in movement and movement phrasing and demonstrates clarity of rhythmic patterning.

- o PERFORMANCE QUALITY: Executes movement with confidence and demonstrate ability to explore dynamic range.

- **Communication**

- o Student begins to cultivate clarity of personal voice and articulation of ideas.

- o Ability to listen to themselves and others, with respect for differing opinions.

- **Citizenship**

- o Takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus; 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.

- o Takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus; demonstrate commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmate versus a select few as the course progresses; active engagement physically, including volunteering to show/demonstrate/lead.

EVALUATIONS AND GRADING:

Midterm Feedback and Evaluation occur during the class. You will be observed by the instructor and perhaps other members of the dance faculty. Grades will be assigned based on the technical proficiencies listed above. For the BFA major, application of your technique work to concert/performance work will be factored into your technique grade.

GUIDING CONCEPTS

These following general concepts are applied to all areas of technical development and used by faculty to assess student progress:

"Self" Awareness and Ensemble Skills

The student demonstrates an ability to retain an awareness of self while integrating their movement into spatial relationships with other persons and groups. The student should also demonstrate clarity in three-dimensional movements and an ability to sustain directionality in exercises and in phrases of substantial length.

Transitional Skills (Continuity of Flow)

Exercises should be performed with an understanding and dynamic use of different types of phrasing. Students should demonstrate 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.

Performance Quality (Dynamic Awareness)

Each instructor will provide the class with specific movement and performance goals that delineate for the student: suitable use of energy, range of dynamics and movement qualities, the images or mind-set to evoke expressive and/or stylistic qualities and functional details

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:

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.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 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.

Getting Help:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: (352) 392-HELP (352-392-4357) - select option 2, <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

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: 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/>

- 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.
 - 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/>

General Information:

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. 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.

Fall 2025 Dance Calendar

August

21 First day of classes

SoTD Convocation/ 4-5pm in Reitz Auditorium

Welcome Meeting + Incoming Student Orientation @ 6:30pm in G6

24 Gathering Scores / 12pm @ CAME

25 Agbedidi Auditions @ 6:30pm in G6 / UBW Co-Lab Submissions Due

27 Drop/Add Deadline

29 BFA Senior Concert + Student Projects Auditions / 6:30pm in G6

September

1 Labor Day – NO CLASS

10 BA Welcome Meeting

13 COTA 50th celebration – Steinbrenner Hall (faculty and leadership only)

27- Oct 2 Shakia Barron Auditions + Residency (TBC)

October

9 Whitehorse family & friends perform at Harn After Dark (6-9pm)

10 Whitehorse Family visits Friday Movement Practice

11 Possible Harn Museum of Dance Date

****14 PILOBOLUS AT THE UF PHILLIPS CENTER**

16 Agbedidi Designers Run 6:30p – 9:30p

17 Homecoming – NO CLASSES

20 Fall Senior UnShowing #1 (BFA Seniors)

21-23 Urban Bush Women Collab Lab Residency / Classes During CAADDP Period
(10:40a-12p on 10/21)

21 UBW Collab Lab 7:10-9:40p Rehearsal at UF

22 UBW Collab Lab 5-7:30pm Rehearsal at Santa Fe

23 YDW Welcome event hosted by UBW at 8pm with Collab Lab Performance
(expect class excusals that day) <https://www.showpass.com/urban-bush-women/>

24-25 Young Dancers Workshop classes at UF (9a-4p)

25 Young Dancers Workshop Showcase performance at SF

27 Fall Senior UnShowing #2 (BFA Seniors)

November

7 BFA Dance Area Auditions

8 Possible Harn MoD date

9, 10, + 12 Agbedidi Spacing

11 Veteran's Day / No Classes

13 Agbedidi Crew Watch

14 + 16 Agbedidi Tech

17 + 19 Global Dance Perspectives Mini-Conference @ 8:30am in G6 + 219

20, 21, + 23 Agbedidi

24-28 Thanksgiving Break / No Classes

December

1 Global Dance Perspectives Mini-Conference @ 8:30am in G6 + 219 / ACDA
Adjudication @ 6:30pm in G6

2 CBP + CAADDP Class Culture Sharings (during class periods)

3 Class Culture Sharings (during class period) / Last day of classes / Final
UnShowing (creative classes; research projects; WIPs) @ 6:30pm in G6

4-5 Reading Days

8 CRAs with first-year dance majors (transfers included)