

DAA 1000 - Fundamentals of Dance

Fall 2014

Periods 2-3 * T R 8:30 -10:25 * Section 6014

Periods 4-5 * T R 10:40 - 12:35 * Section 6015

Instructor: Meredith Holloway Farnum Location: O'Connell Center Dance Studio (SOC2450)

Office Hours: by appointment only - email: mereholl@ufl.edu or Sakai mail

Catalog Description: Practice and principles of fundamentals and stylistic characteristics common to ballet, jazz and modern dance. (H) 3 credits

Fundamentals of Dance is designed to provide accessibility to the world of dance for all students, novice or pre-professional. Along with learning the rudiments of the dance techniques, with a focus on dance styles common to Western culture, you will discover the rich heritage, challenging discipline, fertile aesthetic, as well as your place in the vast spectrum of dance. There is truth in advertising – as once you are successful in this class, these fundamentals become the basis for achieving excellence in higher levels and making informed connections with how this art interacts with your life. The following objectives provide the direction for the course:

Objectives:

- To provide a student with the history, basic techniques, and contemporary references relevant to accessing a basic understanding of ballet, jazz and modern dance
- Enhance the mind/body connection through the application of sound biomechanical principles as they relate to dance, such as practicing proper alignment, learning basic human anatomy, and learning of alternative approaches to movement study. This knowledge will be directly applied to the various styles of dance learned in class
- Practice elements of performing and explore performance quality, discovering your own potential and personal style while developing your kinesthetic memory
- Experience, discuss and write about live dance performances

Dance Etiquette and Attire: Dance is an art and requires personal discipline and motivation. Respect for other students and the instructor is of the utmost importance. When in class you will be attentive and active. Be aware of the appropriate times to talk and/or sit. Attire should be form fitting, allowing the line of the body to be seen. Leotards and tights (leggings or jazz pants) are suitable for female students. *Dance* shorts can be worn, but only with tights. For male students, form fitting shorts (compression shorts) or athletic pants with a form fitting T-shirt are suitable. Form fitting warmers can be worn and should be removed after warm-up. Dance shoes are not required for this course, but socks are recommended. **No baggy sweats, shirts, pants or shorts. No street clothes or street shoes. No large jewelry, no chewing gum, no hats, and no loose hair.** Personal hygiene is expected and is its own reward. You may lose points for improper attire, hair or attitude.

Attendance Guide:

- Mindful participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins this will count as an absence.
- For extended health issues refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the current SoTD Handbook (SoTD website)

Information on make-up work: Any make-up work requires proper and official documentation from professional sources and presented to the instructor in a timely fashion. To earn credit for an absence you must do two things:

- 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor
- 2) Make-up the class with an approved assignment. All Make-up assignments for excused absences must be completed by the last day of classes of the semester.

There are no makeup classes for unexcused absences.

Attendance Policy

MANDATORY. Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this class. This requires you to be in class on time in the proper attire and with your attention focused on dance. Once in the studio, you should be warming up and stretching to prepare yourself for class.

- You must be present for all scheduled classes, plus required concerts, auditions, and events.
- It is your responsibility to know your schedule. Check your UF email & the dance studio bulletin boards. The instructor will only respond to UF email (ufl.edu)
- Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of five points.
- You are responsible for all material covered in class during your absence. You are advised to ask other students for material missed in class. It is not the teacher responsibility to re-teach you when you are absent.
- Prolonged illness or injury may result in dropping the class. (An incomplete is rare.). • AN INCOMPLETE WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION. If approved, College of Fine Arts Incomplete Contract must be signed by the Director, Instructor, and Student.
- You are tardy if you are not present for roll call. When late you must clear entry into class – it is at the instructors discretion whether you will be allowed to participate in class if you are more than ten minutes late. This is for your own safety.
- Three (3) points will be deducted for being late or leaving early (for any reason)
- Other classes that schedule events during this class will be considered an absence and are not excused. Field trips with school events must be documented by the school and documentation must be sent directly to me. UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up. (Travel time not included.) Student is still responsible for material covered during their absence.
- If unable to dance, with instructor permission, you may ‘actively’ observe one time for full credit.
- You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class. Check with instructor for instructions. You may not receive credit for attendance if you arrive ten minutes into the scheduled class time.

- You may not use this time for napping or "study hall", otherwise it will be considered an absence.
- Absences without proper documentation from exams result in a **zero**. If you miss the final exam you cannot pass this course.
- You may not pass the course with 8 or more absences (excused or unexcused)

Please use the following locations for UF resources for physical and mental health care:

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/> (Student Health Care Center)

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

<http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)

Text: The DAA1000 Handbook was prepared especially for this class and will be available online without cost at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/students/syllabi.aspx> . Search for: DAA 1000 Fundamentals Handbook

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.

Assignments and Tests

TOTAL POINTS TO EARN = 100

- Technique Evaluation 10 points
- Performance Evaluation 10 points
- Written Test (15 each) 30 points
- Compare/Contrast Paper 10 points

Required performance in addition to performance of your choice from Approved Performance list)

- Class Observation Paper 5 points
- In-class Project (Mid-term) 15 points
- Final Project 20 points
- In-class work – 5 points
- Choreography/ Costume/makeup/props – 5 points
- Dress Rehearsal and Performance – 5 points
- Journal – 5 points

A = 100-95 points
 A- = 94.99-90 points
 B+ = 89.99-87 points
 B = 86.99-83 points
 B- = 82.99-80 points
 C+ = 79.99-77 points
 C = 76.99-73 points
 C- = 72.99-70 points
 D+ = 69.99-67 points
 D = 66.99-63 points
 D- = 62.99-60 points
 E = 59.99 points or lower

Academic Honesty

The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to act with integrity. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and a student being subject to the sanctions in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines (University of Florida Rule 6C1-4.017).

Students with Disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource Center strives to provide quality services to students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, to educate them about their legal rights and responsibilities so that they can make informed decisions, and to foster a sense of empowerment so that they can engage in critical thinking and self-determination.

Important Dates:

No classes – September 1: Labor Day, October 17-18: Homecoming, November 11: Veterans Day, November 26-29: Thanksgiving

Principle Test – September 30

Class Observation due – October 21

Final Group Info due – Sept 25* see description below.

History Test – November 6

Group Finals – Performance – Final Journal Paper due – December 9

Aug. 26- INTRO

Aug. 28 - Alignment/ Conditioning/ Flexibility - Chapter 1

Sept. 2 – Sept. 23- Modern - Chapters 2, 3 & 4 read during this time - Principles test on Ch.

1- 4, all additional info via lectures on Feb 8th

Sept. 16– Choose final project groups

Sept. 18, 23, 25 (In Class)– Mid-term Project

* Sept 25– Hand in list of dancers, music choice, style of dance and working title in class. This will count for 2 points towards your in-class portion of your final project grade. Here is the info that you will need to have:

Working Title (the title of your dance composition – can be changed later)

Choreographed and performed by: (list group members)

Music: “name of song” by (artist)

Style(s) of dance that your group has chosen

Sept. 25 – Oct. 14– Ballet – Chapter 5 read during this time.

Oct 16 – Nov 6– Jazz – Chapter 6 read during this time. History Test on Ch 5-6, videos and lectures.

ABSENCES DISCOURAGED!!! FROM THIS POINT ON:

Nov 6 – Sign-up sheets will be posted for your choice of class combination to be performed during final show.

Nov 13 & 18– Work in class on group projects/ run class combinations – Performance Evaluation

Nov 20 & 25– Choreography and Rehearsal Workshop - complete class combinations and clean

Dec. 2– Perform group pieces for class and critique dances / continue Performance evaluation – personal feedback – proof program and make final changes

Dec. 4- Dress Rehearsal – run show in order / view video of dress rehearsal (costumes are not required unless you have props that need to be rehearsed)

Dec 9– SHOW!! Final performance and **JOURNAL DUE**

ALL PAPERS FOR THE END OF THE SEMESTER SHOWS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN CLASS TIME ON **DEC 9th** . NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME.

ALL ABOVE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO VARIATION.

ASSIGNMENT AND TESTS – ALL PAPERS MUST BE HANDED IN AS A HARD COPY. NO EMAILED PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Technique Evaluation - (10 points) An ongoing in-class evaluation primarily for checking our communication goals and your degree of successful effort. Absences could affect this grade.

Performance Evaluation - (10 point) This will include the choreography of three or four combination taught throughout the class. One combination will be chosen by each dancer to be performed on the final presentation day (Dec 4th). You will be evaluated on your knowledge of the choreography, your ability to receive and apply creative feedback, your energy and enthusiasm for the performance quality of the piece and your actual performance during the show. Your absence during rehearsal or performance will affect your 10 points.

Written Test (30 points – 15 points each) There will be two written tests based on text and review and discussion during the class. The first will be a Principles Test on Chapters 1-4, in-class exercises and handouts. The second will be a History Test on Chapters 5-6, in-class videos and handouts.

Compare and Contrast Paper (10 points) You are to write a compare and contrast paper on TWO live performances. No taped performances, so do not ask. The performances can be your choice. See the list of performances this Spring below or visit the websites listed above to find info about upcoming performances. Student tickets are available at the UFPA with a student ID. I recommend that you secure your tickets ASAP. Papers are due two weeks (forth class) after the second performance. All papers must be a **minimum of three pages**, typed, double spaced. **You MUST hand in your ticket stubs in class. You MUST write your name and student ID on your ticket stubs. Points will be deducted for lack of ticket stubs. If a show does not require tickets you must hand in the front page of the program. NO!!!! full programs, PLEASE.**

Important websites for upcoming performances:

Center for the Performing Arts: www.performingarts.ufl.edu

UF College of Fine Arts main page: www.arts.ufl.edu

Class Observation Paper (5 points) You are to observe one basic, intermediate or advanced class and type a one page, double spaced paper on class content and personal impression. You must attend the entire class, take notes and have the instructor sign your notes at the end of class. Your notes will be handed in with a one page typed observation/opinion paper. Due dates are listed above.

In-class Project (Mid-term) (15 points) Based on discussions and related assignments, the instructor will inform the class on the details of this project, which will be worked on in-class. This project will provide you with the basics on how the class will proceed with the final project

Final Project (20 points) Groups of 3 -5 students will collaboratively choreograph a 1.5 - 2 minute composition. It is up to you to choose your own group of dancers to work with. If you need assistance, let me know. Group selections are due by Sept 10th. There will be time in class available for working on projects, but also be prepared to meet outside of class if needed. The time spent in class working on your project is part of participation/attire and will affect your final grade. Absences are discouraged during this time and will affect your final project grade. Groups can choose any one of the dance styles covered in class or a combination of dance styles. Everyone is expected and required to have input. This is a group project. It is about everyone in

the group. Work Together! Make sure you exchange phone numbers/email addresses with other members in your group. Compositions will be presented to the rest of the class, friends and family on Dec 3rd. Also, every dancer needs to hand in a one page typed, double space journal on their final project experience. This is your final performance for this class. Include costumes, props (if needed) and whatever else your dance needs. Have FUN and be creative. This is your opportunity.

Reading You are required to keep up with the reading of the text. Material in the text will be continually referenced in class and we will also have lectures and discussions on each chapter. Read this syllabus thoroughly!

Makeup Papers for excused absences are **due one week after the show**(any dance performance, play or musical) that you are critiquing. You are to write a summary/review that is 1 page, typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Please write "Makeup Paper" under your name.

All papers that are written on performances that are at the end of the semester are **DUE NO LATER THAN Dec 9th by class time**. No papers will be accepted after this time.