

DAA 2331/ WEST AFRICAN DANCE

Spring 2015
M, W Periods 9-10 (4-6 pm)
Constans Dance Studio G-06
Gen Ed H/1-D (2 Credits)

Mr. Mohamed DaCosta
Ph: 273-0521
Office Hours by Appointment
E-mail: dacosta1@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an immersion into performance as a way of knowing, understanding, and experiencing culture, emphasizing cultural traditions, community outreach and diversity. The class works through artistic process, practice, performance, and related activities, using dance, theatre, and music work rooted in West African tradition and contemporary West African aesthetics. The focus of the class will be the traditional dance and music. Prerequisites include audition and consent of the instructor. Class may be repeated with of change of content up to a maximum of 6 credits.

OBJECTIVES

- To cross the boundaries of music, dance, theatre, and culture in the creation of theatrical work exploring cultural traditions.
- To broaden your understanding of the social significance of performance in today's society through involvement in community outreach.
- To strive for an ever-growing proficiency in the repertory presented, emphasizing professionalism and performance.
- To search for an internal discipline, motivating you to challenge your limits, both physical and psychological, and to motivate others to do the same.
- To open yourself to creating a community of artists and audience members dedicated to cultural sharing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Participation as indicated in classes, outside class events, and outreach activities.
- Participation in assigned master classes/events.
- Participation in assigned costume fittings and costume building assistance.
- **FULL** participation as indicated in dance, tech, and dress rehearsals.

GLOBAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- **Attendance is MANDATORY (Including Dress rehearsals)!**
- You must be present for all scheduled classes, plus required concerts, auditions, and/or events.
- **Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of points.**
- There are NO makeup classes. Additional points for excused absences can be earned as stipulated below.
- It is your responsibility to know your schedule.
- Check your UF email & the dance studio bulletin boards.
- **INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.** If approved, CFA Incomplete Contract must be signed by the Director, Instructor, and Student.

Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
- There will be a 5 minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.
- 2 tardies for dance/tech rehearsals equal 1 unexcused absence.
- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
 - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
 - Majors: Additional hours for Community in Motion

Resources

- <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmary)
- <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
- 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.
- Injury/Illness: Please refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SOTD 2012-2013 Handbook.
- 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.
- All make-up assignments for excused absences to be completed **by the last day of classes this semester.**

DRESS

Appropriate West African dance clothing, which allows the line of the body to be seen, is required in class and rehearsal. Lapas are required to purchase for \$20, since there is no required text for the class. Please note that if you do not wear a lapa in class for 4 class days, it can result in a lowering of your final grade. Please pay particular attention to maintaining good personal hygiene.

EVALUATION

1. You will be evaluated on how fully you realize the objectives (page one) of the course.
2. Your successes in completion of all class requirements.
3. Your professional demeanor.
4. Class attendance and punctuality.

Final grades determined by points:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Class participation/Attendance | 300 points |
| Event Attendance | (2) 100 points (50 each) |
| Dance/Tech/Extra Rehearsal Participation/Attendance | 100 points |
| Total Possible Points: | 500 points |

| | |
|----|---------|
| A | 480-500 |
| A- | 459-479 |
| B+ | 438-458 |
| B | 417-437 |
| B- | 396-416 |
| C+ | 375-395 |
| C | 354-374 |
| C- | 333-353 |
| D | 312-332 |
| D- | 291-311 |
| F | 000-310 |

Unless documented by a physician, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 25-point deduction in your **final grade**. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. *Please see me, or e-mail me with any course related questions or concerns that may arise for you during the semester.*

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean's Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

EVENTS

You are required to see two shows (The BFA Showcase and 1 other show of your choice). The other shows listed below are not required but will count as extra credit. However, you must show proof by bringing in a ticket stub or a program signed by a door usher working that night! You can purchase your tickets well in advance. Print your name and UFID on your ticket stub. Should you have a scheduling conflict that will prevent your from attending an assigned event, it is your responsibility to inform Professor DaCosta as soon as possible before the event in order for a substitute event to be assigned. This course follows University Honor Code.

PERFORMANCES/ASSIGNMENT for SPRING 2015

METAMORPHOSES

By Marry Zimmerman
Directed by Charlie Mitchell
Constans Theatre
Jan. 23 – Jan. 29

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Charles Hart and Richard Stilgoe
Book by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Richard Stilgoe
Directed by Anthony Offerle
Musical Direction Matt Wardell
University Auditorium
Jan. 30 – Feb. 1

GATOR TALES

Devised and directed by Kevin Marshall
Black Box Theatre, McGuire Pavilion
Feb. 13 – Feb. 22

DANCE 2015

Directed by Ric Rose
Constans Theatre
Mar. 13 – Mar. 20

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Judith Williams
Black Box Theatre, McGuire Pavilion
Apr. 3 – Apr. 12

SPRING BFA DANCE SHOWCASE

Director TBA
G-6 Studio
Apr. 16 – Apr. 19