

DAA2105: Contemporary Dance Practices 2

Spring 2026

Mon / Wed | 10:40 AM – 12:35 PM

Location: CON G006 (first half of semester) CON G011 (second half of semester)

Instructor of Record: Onye Ozuzu (she/her)

Email: oozuzu@ufl.edu

Office Location: Room 205, Nadine McGuire Theatre + Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9:30–10:30 AM or by appointment (in-person or Zoom)

Course Links

- **Syllabi:** arts.ufl.edu/syllabi
- **Lab Fees:** aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees
- **Canvas (E-Learning):** elearning.ufl.edu
- **Email Policy:** Use **only** your ufl.edu account for course-related emails. And communicate with me regarding this course through the CANVAS platform

***this syllabus is a plan, subject to change*

Course Description

This course is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students in contemporary dance practices and to embrace the demands of the 21st century artist. This course engages the student in the practice of contemporary dance relating the form to specific aesthetic and biomechanical histories as well as the form's evolution and relevance in the 21st century.

Personal Statement

I teach a grounded, rhythmic, energy-cultivating technique, employing both floor work and upright forms that draw heavily from West African and African Diaspora dances, Chinese and Japanese martial arts, yoga, somatic practices, and Modern/Contemporary dance — not always in that order.

I have spent 27 years in modern/contemporary dance, 15 in subtle martial arts (Aikido and Qi Gong) and yoga, 15 in Salsa, 10 as an avid House/club dancer, 24 as a Djembe (West African) dancer. I was initiated to my path dancing in the works of Nia Love, trained in Viewpoints and improvisation with Barbara Dilley, been in the studio and the club and at the kitchen table with Rennie Harris, studied West African drumming in communities in Florida, Maryland, Colorado and in Senegal. I learned Bartenieff fundamentals with Jackie Villamil and taught creative movement to elementary school children (the best improvisers on the planet).

I have dedicated much of my work as a dance artist to cultivating space for diverse dance/movement forms to collaborate in my body. I honor explorations that are detailed enough to recognize how things work in the body — deeper than aesthetics. I am interested in finding the connections in the why and the

how and where we dance from — inside ourselves, and in the contexts of the cultures that the dance forms we carry forward came from.

Course Objectives

1. Cultivate energy, build strength, deepen balance, expand movement vocabulary.
2. Move with rhythmic, physical, and spatial awareness, with an emphasis on dynamic alignment, ease, expressivity, and efficiency of movement.
3. Explore dance technique training through *repetition of form, improvisation and the performance of crafted movement phrases*.
4. Engage the historical and cultural contexts, implications, and possibilities of the forms we study.
5. Strengthen individual artistry through a symbiotic relationship between practice and performance, between technique and style.
6. Document, discuss, and be accountable for one's own evolving capacities as a dancer.

Course Values and Mission

We honor the body as a site of knowledge, we honor one another as unique creative producers and collaborators, and through intentionally crafted practice, we will learn to:

- Have FUN, be at ease in your body, and encourage yourself and others.
- Approach challenges with resilience, curiosity, and respect for self and peers.
- Contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Emphasize process over perfection, valuing growth and inquiry as integral to artistic practice.
- Let yourself do hard things, new things. Be ok with the process of learning when it includes mistakes, confusion, and some discomfort (within physically safe boundaries).

Schedule of Assignments and Assessments

- **Weekly** – 5 min in class body-based journal free write
- **Jan 19** – Self-Portrait / In-Class Journal Assignment
- **Mar 2-9** – Mid-Term Assessments / 1-1 meetings /Journals/Technique Forms Video assessment 1
- **Apr 15-20** – Final Assessments / Journals / Self-Portrait/Technique Forms Video assessment 2

Grading

- **Practice, Participation, and Evolution:** 50%
- **Assignments, Journal Responses, Assessments:** 50%

Total: 100%

Letter Grades:

A = 95–100 | A– = 90–94
B+ = 87–89 | B = 83–86 | B– = 80–82
C+ = 77–79 | C = 73–76 | C– = 70–72
D+ = 67–69 | D = 63–66 | F = below 63

Required & Recommended Materials

Required: All readings/viewings (TBA, available on Canvas). A journal for on-going note-taking and assigned writing, knee pads

Recommended: long-sleeved T-shirt, water bottle, device for accessing digital materials.

Studio Procedures

- **Attire:** Clothing that allows free movement; long pants, long sleeves, and knee pads recommended. Avoid jewelry that poses risk.
- **Water & Food:** Bring water; eat before/after class (no food or gum in class).
- **Device Policy:** Studio time is screen-free unless devices are part of classwork. Notify instructor if you must be reachable.
- **Punctuality:** Arrive on time and stay for the full class. Chronic tardiness or early departure will require a meeting.

Attendance Policy

- **Allowed:** 2 absences (no documentation required).
- **On 3rd absence:** Meeting required with instructor/area faculty; if unexcused, results in **-5%** final grade deduction.
- **Subsequent unexcused absences:** Additional **-5%** per absence.
- **Excused absences** require documentation and include illness (with official doctor's note), family emergencies, curricular requirements, military service, severe weather, official university activities, or court obligations.

UF Policies

- **Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
 1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
 2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
 3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com/>

- a. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.
- **Academic Misconduct / Honor Code:** SCCR Honor & Conduct Code | [Academic Integrity @ UF \(CTE\)](#)
- **Accommodations:** [Disability Resource Center – Get Started](#)
- **In-Class Recording Policy:** Recording permitted only for specific purposes; publishing or recording non-lecture content is prohibited. See UF policy documents.

Academic Resources

- **E-learning Tech Support:** 352-392-4357 | helpdesk@ufl.edu
- **Career Connections Center:** career.ufl.edu
- **Library Support:** [Ask a Librarian](#); [Library Support Services for Undergrads](#)
- **Teaching Center (CTE):** teach.ufl.edu
- **Writing Studio:** writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio
- **Student Complaints:** SCCR Honor & Conduct Code
- **Distance Learning Complaints:** (Refer to SCCR or academic department; no direct URL found)

Health & Wellness Resources

- **U Matter, We Care:** umatter@ufl.edu | 352-392-1575
- **Counseling & Wellness Center:** counseling.ufl.edu
- **Student Health Care Center:** shcc.ufl.edu
- **University Police Department:** police.ufl.edu | 352-392-1111 / 911
- **UF Health ER / Trauma Center:** 352-733-0111 | 1515 SW Archer Road
- **GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu

DANCE CALENDAR – AY 25-26 SPRING 2026

January

12	First Day of Classes / Welcome Meeting @ 6:30pm in G6
13	<i>Spring Into Dance</i> Auditions @ 6:30pm-9:30pm in G6
13-19	Shakia Barron Residency
16	Drop/Add Deadline
19	No Classes
21	Dance Alive's <i>Swan Lake</i> at UFPA
26	Spring Senior UnShowing 6:30pm
29	Andrea Ward (Ric Rose Alumni Award) 8:45 am lecture ballet combined & 10:40 am
CAADDP 3	
30	Andrea Ward Master Class 10:40 am BAs & BFAs & 6 pm Ric Rose Alumni Award Presentation (Faculty, staff, and All Majors attending)

February

2	Spring Senio UnShowing / 6:30pm
6	BFA Dance Area Auditions

7	Harn SoundMoves, 1pm @ the Harn
12	Harn Museum Africa Night 6:30p
13	Open Conversation during FMP, 10:40a-12:10p
6-15	F-Punk Junkies at SoTD
17	Cirque FLIP Fabrique – BLIZZARD, 7:30pm at UFPA
18-22	BFA Senior Concert
21	Dance Alive's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 7:30pm at UFPA
23	DARK DAY – No Dance Major classes all day
	TINA – The Tina Turner Musical, 7:30pm at UFPA
25-Mar 1	ACDA Regional Conference at Brenau University

March

3-6	Rachel Tavernier Dunham Technique Residency
•	March 4 @ 12:50: Combine Dance History + Kinesiology
•	March 5 @ 10:40: Afro-Brazilian + other classes TBD
•	March 6 @ 10:40: Friday Movement Practice
10-11	<i>bang bang</i> in the Squiteri Theater, 7:30pm at UFPA
15-22	<i>Spring Break / No Classes</i>
24	Sa Dance Company – RISE, 7:30pm at UFPA
27	Midpoint Presentations during FMP, 10:30a-12:45p

April

9	Harn Museum night with Choreographer-in-Residence project
10	Critical Response Appointments/CRAs, 9:30a-4:30pm IN PERSON (with first-years, year 1 transfers, + sophomores)
16-19	<i>Spring into Dance</i>
20	DARK DAY – No Dance major classes all day
	The Music Man, 7:30pm at UFPA
21	CBP + CAADDP Class Culture Sharings (during class periods)
22	Last Day of Classes
	CDP Class Culture Sharing (during class period)
	Final UnShowing (creative classes; BA symposium; research presentations; WIPs; celebrations) @ 6:30pm in G6
23-24	Reading Days

REQUIRED EVENTS

- Monday, Jan 12 @ 6:30pm – Welcome Meeting in G6
- Monday, Jan 26 @ 6:30pm – Senior UnShowing in G6 + G10
- Wednesday, Feb 18 – Sunday, Feb 22, various times – BFA Concert in G6
- Friday, March 27, 10:40a-12:35p – Dance Area Midpoint Presentations in G6 (dance majors only)
- Friday, Apr 10, 9:30a-4:30p – Critical Response Appointments IN PERSON in G11 + G10 (first year dance majors, first year transfer dance majors, and sophomore dance majors)
- Thursday, Apr 16 – Sunday, Apr 19, various times – *Spring into Dance* in the Black Box
- Tuesday, Apr 22 - Last Day of Classes CDP Class Culture Sharing (during class period)
- Wednesday, Apr 22 @ 6:30pm – Final UnShowing in G6

