

DAA4685 Dance Ensemble Syllabus

Course Title: Dance Ensemble
Course Code: DAA4685
Semester: Spring 2026
Class Schedule: Tuesday, Thursday | Period 10-11 | 5:10 PM – 7:05 PM | Audition 1/13 @ 6:30pm-9:30pm G006
*** An additional weekend intensive dates TBD will be scheduled in collaboration with dancers*
Class Dates: January 13, 2026 – April 21, 2026
Class Location: CON G010
Instructor: Onye Ozuzu
Contact Email: Oozuzu@ufl.edu
Office Hours: MW (9:30-10:30) Nadine Maguire Dance Pavilion Rm 206 or by appointment in-person or ZOOM

Course Description

This course engages students in an ensemble dance-making process, performance and production. The ensemble will work with Onye Ozuzu as artistic director on a new work, which will integrate choreographic and improvisational elements in multi-layered making process. Our creative process will be shared with a composer who will be creating our sound score as we are working. The costume envisioned for the work will also function as a prop and will impact the movement.

Initial compositional reflection:

I imagine a dance that asks the heart—specifically the solar plexus—to excavate itself. It returns to and braids together multiple threads of earlier works: an ode to Pina Bausch's Café Müller, and another built from odd meters and polyrhythms—structures that layered consciousness the way memories layer the stories of a life.

This new piece wonders how the vulnerable heart survives moments when its inner landscape sits in stark incongruity with the outer one—social, political, communal. It asks how softness keeps finding its way through turbulence, conflict, and threat; how emotional wisdom recycles, remixing itself forward even as we confront the unsettling sense that we must have missed something to be back in this place again.

It will juxtapose prolonged, contained, sculptural movement with driving, grounded, momentum-driven interruption—slow vulnerability colliding with urgent force. It moves inside the question of what patterns must break: what must be unlearned in the body, in the culture, in the choreography of how we have been, in order to make space for how we might yet become.

Some of it is still a mystery to me. That feels not only inevitable, but necessary.

The work developed in this course will culminate in performances during the Spring Into Dance Faculty Concert April 16-19, 2026.

Course Objectives

- To expand the dancer's expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
 - To develop musicality, dynamics, clarity and articulation in time and space.
 - To expose the student to fresh approaches to the creative process.
 - To provide the student with experiences that reinforce their discipline and strengthen their sense of responsibility within a pre-professional creative environment.
 - To relate the student's work in technique class to a rehearsal environment.
 - To gain experience and develop an understanding of how to work in an ensemble
 - To empower the person/dancer/ thinker/choreographer in each student.
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Class Expectations and Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and crucial for ensemble cohesion. Students are permitted up to 2 excused absences without penalty. Any additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade. Excused absences include documented illness, family emergencies, or university-sanctioned activities.

Tardiness and Participation

- Be punctual and prepared to engage physically and mentally in every class.
- Late arrivals beyond 5 minutes require prior notification and may result in a tardy mark. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.
- Active participation in all warm-ups, rehearsals, and discussions is required.
- Professionalism
- Be present, respectful, collaborative and participate fully.
- Dress in movement-appropriate attire
- No cell phone use during rehearsals unless specified for rehearsal purposes.
- Safety and Wellness
- Inform the instructor immediately of injuries or illnesses that may impact participation.

General Information on 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.

Course Content and Structure

Rehearsals and Performance Process

This semester's work will include:

- Learning set choreography and engaging in improvisational practices.
- Researching/engaging with thematic/dramaturgical elements of the choreographic project.
- Participating in technical, spacing, and dress rehearsals leading up to the *Spring in to Dance* performances.

Important Dates (refer to [production calendar](#) for complete list)

Spacing Rehearsals

- **Sun, April 6**
Spacing Rehearsal: **6:30–10:30 PM**
(Earlier safety taping occurs before rehearsal)
 - **Mon, April 7**
Spacing Rehearsal: **6:30–10:30 PM**
 - **Tue, April 8**
Spacing Rehearsal: **6:30–10:30 PM**
 - **Wed, April 9**
Spacing Rehearsal: **6:30–10:30 PM**
(Sound level testing may occur earlier—details TBA)
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Technical & Production Rehearsals

- **Sat, April 12**
Tech Rehearsal #1 (with costumes): **1:00–9:00 PM**
 - **Sun, April 13**
Tech Rehearsal #2 (with costumes): **6:30–11:00 PM**
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Dress Rehearsals

- **Mon, April 14**
Dress Rehearsal #1: **7:30–11:00 PM**
 - **Tue, April 15**
Dress Rehearsal #2 (Invited) + Archival Photos: **7:30–11:00 PM**
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Performances

- **Wed, April 16**
Performance #1 (Opening Night): **7:30–9:00 PM**
Opening Night Reception follows
 - **Thu, April 17**
Performance #2: **7:30–9:00 PM**
 - **Fri, April 18**
Performance #3: **7:30–9:00 PM**
 - **Sat, April 19**
Performance #4 (Filmed): **2:00–3:30 PM**
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Strike

- **Sat, April 19**
Strike: begins at **4:30 PM**

Grading Criteria

1. Attendance and Participation (50%)
Consistent attendance, punctuality, and active engagement in all rehearsals and performances.
2. Quality of Performance (30%)
Demonstration of technical proficiency, musicality, spatial clarity, and expressive range in performance.
3. Professional Conduct (20%)
Adherence to studio rules, rehearsal etiquette, and ensemble collaboration practices.

Studio Policies

- Arrive warmed up and ready to move.
- Use rehearsal time efficiently by reviewing material and integrating feedback.
- Maintain a clean and safe studio environment.
- Hydrate and nourish appropriately before and after rehearsals.

Course Materials

- Dancewear suitable for floorwork. (lightweight long sleeves are nice)
 - Knee pads (recommended).
 - Notebook or digital device for note-taking during rehearsals (as approved by the instructor).
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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.bluer.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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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/CRAAs, 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