

DAA 4685 – 11165 | DANCE ENSEMBLE — SPRING 2026



Instructors of Record: Xan Burley (she/her) + Alex Springer (he/him)

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Office Location: Room 232/233, Nadine McGuire Theatre + Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: by appointment

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Syllabi can be found here <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Lab Fees can be located at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>

Canvas (e-learning): <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This ensemble performance course develops technical range, interpretive depth, and professional performance skills through the study, rehearsal, and public presentation of dance repertory. Under the direction of faculty members Xan Burley and Alex Springer, students engage in an intensive, process-oriented rehearsal environment that emphasizes collaboration, consistency, and embodied research.

Participation begins with auditions on January 13, 2026, followed by regular rehearsals throughout the Spring 2026 semester. The work will culminate in public performances as part of *Spring into Dance*, the 2026 Dance Faculty Concert, presented April 16–19, 2026. All cast members are required to attend scheduled spacing, technical, and dress rehearsals as listed on the SoTD Production Calendar, as these rehearsals are essential components of the performance and learning process.

Required Reading: TBA; all materials will be made available on Canvas.

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 situation.
- To gain experience and develop an understanding of how to work in an ensemble.
- To empower the person/dancer/ thinker/choreographer in each student.

STUDIO PROCEDURES

Proper Attire: You should come dressed ready for class and able to move freely and comfortably. Long pants are best and knee pads are highly suggested. It is recommended that you do not wear jewelry that will impede your ability to move or put you or others at physical risk.

Water + Food: Be sure to bring a water bottle to class. Please do not eat while in class or chew gum.

Device Usage: The studio is a place for focus and engagement, a precious time to be screen-free. Please leave your cell phones, tablets, computers, iPads, etc. in your bags and on silent unless we are using them for classwork. If you need to be reachable by phone for any reason, let me know in advance of rehearsal.

Lateness and leaving early are also detriments to our process. If you are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor accordingly before/after class. Chronic tardiness or early departure will require an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss strategies moving forward.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS + GRADING

(1) INTEGRITY OF PRACTICE (50%)

It is important that we all make some simple agreements upon entering the studio. This facilitates a safe, open, and above all supportive space for taking risk. These guidelines will help:

- Be on time and do not leave early.
- Be warm: arrive to rehearsal ready to move with your body warm. If you need time to warm-up, please say so.
- Stay engaged: present body language that demonstrates openness and willingness to try new things.
- Respect each other and the space: listen, demonstrate patience, and work democratically with others in collaborative assignments. Be quiet when others are working or speaking.
- Integrate feedback: when feedback is given to you personally, to others, or to the entire group, it is important that you consider it as an opportunity to improve yourself.
- Review material: upon arriving to rehearsal, review anything that we have worked on in previous rehearsals. Be prepared to call up any choreography created by that point. Use any down time to hone your material.
- Be bold: activate your creative ingenuity and do not be afraid to share your ideas.
- Lead and follow well: be a good leader and be a good follower. It is important to participate as a singular voice and as part of an ensemble. Teamwork is incredibly valuable.
- Be professional: always should demonstrate your professionalism.

(2) PARTICIPATION (50%)

Participation in rehearsal is necessary! As a cast member, you are responsible for your own material, your presence, and your investment in the process. How you show up defines your presence and role in the performance. Think of this as an example of a professional rehearsal process. Be professional, positive, and hard-working at all times.

Rehearsal Direction can also substitute for a performance grade.

PERCENTAGES

Integrity of Practice	50%
Attendance / Participation	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

[Link to the university grades and grading policies](#)

REQUIRED DATES

Rehearsal Dates/Times:

Regular weekly rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday / Thursday from 7:20-9:10pm in G6. Some of these rehearsals will be canceled or moved to accommodate BFA Showcase and other area-wide events. Dates for Tuesday / Thursday rehearsals are below (not including spacing and tech rehearsals for the Si2D concert):

- Jan 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
- Feb 3, 5, 10 (TBD), 24, 26 (ACDA)
- Mar 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 26, 31
- Apr 2

In addition to regular weekly rehearsals, we plan to hold 1-2 weekend intensives to make up for canceled T/R rehearsals. The dates include:

- January 31, 10a-4p
- February 1, 10a-4p
- March 27, 1-4:30pm
- March 28, 10a-4p
- March 29, 10a-4p
- April 3, 1-4:30pm

All spacing, technical and dress rehearsals are REQUIRED! Please see the Prepared Production calendar for the most up to date schedule: <https://pages.prepared.com/p/filters/66141/FpTrGLmYRLtAyNM1AqVZYwbDaD5uFVge3zQ9GheeodQ>

Know that there will be other important dates, such as costume fittings, that you must attend promptly and professionally. Those will be scheduled next semester.

UF POLICIES & RESOURCES

UF Academic Policies and Resources: For information on university policies, support services, and resources, please visit [UF Syllabus Policy Links](#).

UF Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the [UF Honor Code](#), which upholds academic integrity and honesty in all coursework.

****THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.