

UF School of Theater and Dance

DAA 2331 West African Dance

Section 42EB – Class# 19326

Spring 2022

TR 3:00 – 4:55pm

Nadine McGuire - G6

Instructor: Rujeko Dumbutshena

Email: rdumbutshena@ufl.edu

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

Zoom Link:

Office: McCarty C, Room 306

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00pm & 5:00-6:00pm (by appointment).

Office Phone: (352) 273-0500

Course Description:

A performance-based course aimed at developing the understanding of various styles of dance within West Africa both as a technique and a cultural art form. The course is an immersion into dance and culture that focuses on the development and exploration of traditional West African dance techniques designed to deepen the practice of the aesthetics of neo-traditional and contemporary dances. This course will advance the knowledge and appreciation of movements, music, and cultures of the dances learned. Students will develop their efficient use of grounded, relaxed, heavy-weighted movement, isolation, and undulation while acquiring facility in a movement language that is intrinsically tied to its music and culture. We focus on integrating these concepts with movement aesthetics, combinations, and listening and internalizing rhythmic patterns. Students will read, watch, discuss and respond to articles and videos. We will have visiting guest artists introduce us to their lived cultural experiences.

Class will begin with a basic warm up geared towards releasing the weight of the body by stretching, opening the hip joints, rolling down the spine, shoulder and neck rotations, and isolations of the pelvis and upper thoracic cavity. Movements will be learned alongside rhythm, song and cultural history. You will be expected to participate fully, be present in the moment, and proceed with each exercise until you find better movement efficiency, execution, synchronicity, strength, stamina, confident projection, and individual expressivity. During seminar portions of the class students are expected to arrive ready to contribute to class discussions, having read and watched material.

Dance Course Objectives:

Retention: Students can remember phrases of moderate length, attending to shape, space and timing.

Quality: Students can demonstrate attention to movement quality and artistry after numerous repetitions

Musicality: Students can understand “breaks” (drum call) and timing in movement phrase, including introductory polyrhythmic elements

Energy: Students can reproduce appropriate level and quality of energy within movement phrases with extended repetitions

UF Level I Dance Technique Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate clear rhythmic timing in movement and movement phrasing
- Perform movement with confidence
- Demonstrate a foundational level of anatomical/kinesiological awareness in Africanist aesthetic

- Safely and accurately replicate movement of simple to moderate complexity
- Display foundational level of strength, endurance, muscular stabilization, and support

West African Dance Practices Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an appreciation of dance, music and culture from Guinea, West Africa,
- Implement aesthetics, movements, transitions, and combinations of dances learned
- Implement corrections from feedback
- Grasp and retain movement sequences
- Synchronize movements with drums and other dancers
- Commit to learning process and development through self-correction
- Understand and deepen relationship to the body through weight release and grounding
- Understand rhythm, polyrhythm, and other musical concepts related to dances taught
- Learn about the contexts, culture and history of dances learned
- Develop aesthetic and cultural awareness and understanding through music, and dance
- Deepen self-awareness and community building practices

Dance Attendance Policy:

- Students can take 2 absences with no documentation with no penalty.
- If the third absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the final grade.
- Excused or unexcused, on the 3rd absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- If the fourth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the final grade.
- 4 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course
- Absences and opportunities to make up missed material will be discussed during midterm individual office hours.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

- Participate in physical practice and course work
- Submit four practice video clips with self-assessment, comments and questions
- Read articles, watch videos and participate in group discussions
- Watch and respond to video performances
- Mid semester self-assessment
- Mid semester combination
- Final project presentation

Attendance & Participation: Students are encouraged to attend classes in person. There will be an option to attend via Zoom for students who must stay home. Participation will include and movement practice, reading, watching videos, and class discussion. Contact the instructor via ufl email about classes you know you expect to miss or unexpectedly cannot attend or participate in class.

If a student is unable to participate or need to modify their participation in dance practice classes, communicate with the instructor and write a 300-word document outlining or describing your observations.

***Reference participation rubric below.** (60 points)

Submit Practice Videos: Students are expected to practice outside of class 1-2 hours per week and to submit four practice videos during the semester. Students must submit self-assessment comments and questions as part of their practice videos. These can be recorded after the practice video clip or added to the comments in Canvas

assignment when submitting video. Practicing with a partner is encouraged. Due 1/13, 1/27, 2/10 & 2/24. (12 points)

Reading Response & Discussion: Students are expected to read articles and watch videos prior to seminar discussion classes on 1/25 & 2/8. Submit responses in Canvas discussion board and come prepared to participate and contribute to discussions in class. Due Tuesday, January 25, & Tuesday, February 8. (10 points)

Mid Quarter Combination: Students will submit a video of themselves performing the full combination of one of the dances learned in class. Due Tuesday, February 15. (3 points)

Mid Semester Self-Assessment: Students will conduct a mid-semester self-assessment that candidly reflects on their technique, participation, and learning in this course and demonstrates awareness of their strengths and areas they would like to focus on improving. A template can be found on Canvas (3 points). We will review assessments during our individual office hour meeting on 2/17 (2 points). Due Thursday, February 17. (5 points)

Video Performance Quiz: Students will choose a performance video and write responses to questions asked in the quiz assignment on Canvas. Due Thursday, March 3. (3 points)

Final Presentation Performance: Using movement vocabulary from this quarter's practice classes students will work individually and/or collaboratively to create a final performance presentation. Can be a video project or in person performance. Due Tuesday, April 19 (5 points)

Reflective Quiz: Reflecting on experience and learning in the class as a whole submit responses to questions asked in the quiz assignment on Canvas. Due Thursday, April 21. (2 points)

Grading:

Attendance and Participation - **60 points**

Submit Practice Videos & Self-assessment - **12 points** (Due 1/13, 1/27, 2/10 & 2/24)

Reading Response & Discussion – **10 points** (Due 1/25 & 2/8)

Mid-Quarter Combination - **3 points** (Due 2/15)

Mid-Quarter Self-Assessment – **5 points** (Due 2/17)

Video Performance Quiz - **3 points** (Due 3/3)

Final Presentation Performance- **5 points** (Due 4/19)

Reflective Quiz - **2 points** (Due 12/9)

TOTAL - **100 points**

A 94-100 %

A- 90-94

B+ 87- 90

B 84- 87

B- 84- 80

C+ 80- 77

C 77- 74

C- 74- 70

D+ 70- 67

D 67- 64

D- 64- 61

F 60 and below

***Participation Grading Rubric:**

Exemplary 60-50 points

• Student is on time, present, and participates fully in movements being taught. Exemplary execution of each movement. Displays good to excellent retention of movement combinations. Displays consistent commitment to practicing. Easily implements correction and feedback. Consistently contributes to a collaborative, supportive, and respectful environment. Demonstrates ability to bring individual creativity to their solo movement explorations. Active contribution to class discussions reflects deep engagement with course material.

Proficient 51-41points

• Student is on time, present, and participates in movements being taught and execute each movement to the best of their ability. Displays good retention of movement combinations. Displays commitment to practicing. Implements correction and feedback. Contributes to a collaborative, supportive, and respectful environment. Demonstrates some ability to bring individual creativity to their solo movement explorations. Contribution to class discussions reflect engagement with course material.

Developing 40-30 points

• Student is mostly on time, present, and participates in movements being taught and efforts to execute each movement to the best of their ability. Displays some retention of movement combinations. Displays some commitment to practicing. Implementation of correction and feedback show some progress. Doesn't actively work collaboratively, or supportively. Developing ability to bring individual creativity to their solo movement explorations. Doesn't actively contribute to class discussions but displays retention of course material.

Unacceptable <30 points

• Student is late, not present, and participating in class fully for more than a third of the classes. Does not retain movement combinations. Has no commitment to practicing or implementing corrections and feedback. Doesn't work collaboratively or supportively. Does not bring individual creativity to their solo movement explorations. Doesn't retain course material or contribute to class discussion.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

We will adhere to the Dance Program attendance policy.

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance is mandatory past September 10 2021.
- Enter the classroom present, alert, and ready to contribute to the progress of every second of the class.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins you are marked absent.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2020-2021 Student Handbook (can be accessed on SoTD website).

Medical Withdrawal: A student with medical documentation may apply to UF for Medical Withdrawal. Medical withdrawal will not be supported without approved documentation. An Incomplete is only considered by UF Dance in extreme cases and is not available in technique classes.

UF's physical and mental health resources: Please consult the following sites for

<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)

Attendance Policy:

- Students can have two absences with no documentation, without penalty.
- All undocumented absences are unexcused. Excused absences may include those related to illness/injury which are documented by a medical professional. Events related to family emergencies or professional

obligations should be discussed with your instructor. (See Make-up Policy for more information on excused absences.)

- If the third absence is unexcused, it will reduce your grade one-letter grade (i.e., from B to C)
- On the third absence, excused or unexcused, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers your grade by half letter grade (i.e., from C to C-).
- Requirements/opportunities to make up missed material are up to the instructor's discretion. Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, 4 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.
- After five unexcused absences the student may not return to class and result in automatic failure of the course.
- For your safety and the focus of the class, you may not join class if it has already started. You are late and counted absent; with instructor permission, you may observe.
- If you should leave class early, 3 points are deducted from your grade.
- If unable to dance but still attend, with instructor permission, you may 'actively' observe for full class credit, onetime. You will submit a written/creative assignment as assigned by the instructor due at the end of class.
- UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up. (Travel time not included.) You are responsible for material covered during your absence.

Participation:

Attendance does not equal participation. Participation involves being present. The goal of class sessions is to challenge and support your dance practice, and to co-create a learning community where individual experiences and voices are respected and supported, and each person is a collaborator in advancing the learning and development of the whole group. Ways to be present and participate fully include timeliness and preparation for class; active listening; careful, on-point contributions to discussions; attending to fellow students' work, and offering relevant feedback and critical support; and paying attention to the dynamics of the room, and responding accordingly. Specific responsibilities are aimed toward deepening individual and collective artistic development.

Observation:

When you observe class due to injury or illness, you must hand in an observation paper for that day at the end of class, or you will be marked absent. The subject of your observation will be determined by the instructor at the beginning of class.

DRESS POLICY:

Wear comfortable clothes that allow free/full range of movement but keep the alignment of the body visible. It is recommended that you wear "soft" pants (no shorts). Wearing African dance attire is optional. You can wear a sarong (lapa) around your waist. Ask instructor if you are interested in purchasing a lapa for class. For safety reasons, do not wear eyeglasses or large jewelry. Socks are discouraged and may be worn only for protective purposes and with prior approval from the instructor. Since your body temperature will change throughout class, it is recommended you wear and/or bring layers of clothing. It is recommended you have water available to drink during the class; please bring it in a closeable water bottle. Food is not permitted in the studio. Eating and chewing gum are not permitted in class.

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities 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. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting

assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

ETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

[<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

GETTING HELP:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 • <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

COVID-19 Precautions

COVID-19 cases continue to surge, setting new local and state records for hospitalizations. As a result, our methods for realizing classroom activities and productions will continue to look different. Below is a list of practices that the school is implementing to safely connect. The practices align with UF's SPRING 2022 plan (<https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/>) and they will evolve as our community needs to shift in response to the virus.

- All people inside of UF facilities are expected to wear masks in community spaces in buildings, including common areas in our office suites, when we are not in our individual offices or workspaces, even if you are vaccinated.
- Your ONE.UF account must show a "Cleared for Campus" status in order to attend in-person. I will check my roster before each class meeting.
- If you cannot attend class due to COVID or FLU or other illness and want to attend class online, please communicate with the instructor via Zoom by noon on the day of your absence.
- Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment.
- Students are welcome to use hand sanitizer or wash hands at the top of each class, rehearsal or production activity in shared spaces.
- Stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the "show must go on" mentality must be avoided.
- Participate in UF Health's Screen, Test, and Protect initiative by completing health screening questionnaires and by scheduling testing when prompted through One.UF.edu. Additional testing information is available at: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth>.
- Wipes and sanitation supplies will be available to sanitize individual props, costumes, chairs, ballet barres, music stands, tables, individual projects etc.
- Dispose of personal trash in appropriate bags/containers.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

<u>Week 1</u> <u>1/6</u> - Meet & Intro to syllabus - History and culture	<u>Week 2</u> <u>1/11</u> - Warm-up - Fundamental techniques & aesthetics & Intro Yankadi <u>1/13</u> - Learn movement vocabulary (Yankadi) - Submit practice video #1	<u>Week 3</u> <u>1/18</u> - Guest Artist <u>1/20</u> - Readings and responses - Guest Artist	<u>Week 4</u> <u>1/25</u> - Seminar & discussion #1 <u>1/27</u> - Learn movement vocabulary (Yankadi) - Submit practice video #2
<u>Week 5</u> <u>2/1</u> - Warm-up - (Yankadi) <u>2/3</u> - Learn movement vocabulary (Macru) - Readings and responses	<u>Week 6</u> <u>2/8</u> - Seminar & discussion #2 - (Macru) <u>2/10</u> - Review Yankadi/Macru <i>Harn Museum Event</i> - Submit practice video #3	<u>Week 7</u> <u>2/15</u> - Submit midterm combination video - Learn movement vocabulary (Fula Fare) <u>2/17</u> - Midterm Assessment due - Individual office hours	<u>Week 8</u> <u>2/22</u> - (Fula Fare) <u>2/24</u> - Watch performance videos and related readings. - (Fula Fare) - Submit practice video #4 <u>24-27</u> - Dance 2022 performances 1-3 7:30pm & 27 – 2-4:30pm Constans Theatre
<u>Week 9</u> <u>3/1</u> (Fula Fare) <u>3/3</u> Review Fula Fare (Zoom) - Submit Video Performance Response	<u>Week 10</u> <u>3/8</u> - NO CLASS <u>3/10</u> - NO CLASS	<u>Week 11</u> <u>3/15</u> - Learn movement vocabulary (Mandjani) <u>3/17</u> - (Mandjani)	<u>Week 12</u> <u>3/22</u> - (Mandjani) 3/24 - (Mandjani)
<u>Week 13</u> <u>3/29</u> - (Mandjani) <u>3/31</u> - Review All dances	<u>Week 14</u> <u>4/5</u> - Review All dances <u>4/7</u> - Working classroom - Peer learning	<u>Week 15</u> <u>4/12</u> - Work on final presentations <u>4/14</u> - Finalize presentations	<u>Week 16</u> <u>4/19</u> - Final presentations <u>4/21</u> - Submit reflective statement (12/9)

