



DAA 4344 Contemporary African & African Diaspora Dance 2 (JAZZ)

SPRING 2025

T/TR 10:40 am - 12:30 pm

Location: G11

Professor Millicent Johnnie

E-mail: mjohnnie@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only– Yon Hall

Phone: (352) 273-0504

- ☐ For correspondence related to class or if you are unable to attend or participate in class for any reason, please notify Professor Johnnie immediately using your ufl.edu account.

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS MISSION:

- ☐ The University of Florida College of the Arts intends to be a transformative community, responding to and generating paradigmatic shifts in the arts and beyond. We do so by:
 - ☐ Embracing the complexity of our evolving human experience and seeking to empower our students, faculty, and staff to shape that experience fearlessly through critical study, creative practice, and provocation.
 - ☐ Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
 - ☐ Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
 - ☐ Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for justice on local and global levels.

NOTE FROM PROFESSOR JOHNNIE:

- ☐ I encourage you to reflect on whether the race, life experiences, or political views of those behind a movement form influence your perspective and understanding of the world. Consider how these contexts shape the music and, consequently, the movement form. Be open to discussions about which contexts are significant and how they might impact you as a young artist. Exploring multiple perspectives and truths will enrich your experiences and provide valuable insights.

A NOTE ON KINDNESS:

- ☐ In various cultural communities, kindness is often defined by support and genuine care, though its expression may differ. For the purposes of this course, kindness should be understood as a display of support and interconnectedness. It involves reflecting on others' needs and recognizing our shared humanity. However, misunderstandings can arise due to differing cultural interpretations. To foster meaningful connections, we must be aware of these cultural differences in our understanding of kindness.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- This advanced course prepares dancers for the professional commercial dance world. Fast-paced and performance-focused, it features dynamic combinations drawn from industry demands. With minimal technique breakdown, students should have a strong jazz foundation. The course hones adaptability, stage presence, and performance skills, bridging the gap from studio to spotlight.

COURSE OBJECTIVES :

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop performance-ready skills for commercial dance environments.
- Execute complex jazz choreography with precision and stylistic nuance.
- Enhance adaptability and quick learning in fast-paced rehearsal settings.
- Cultivate professional stage presence and on-camera performance techniques.
- Build confidence in audition settings through exposure to real-world practices.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

- Choreographic Execution: Perform intricate combinations with accuracy, stylistic integrity, and dynamic expression.
- Performance Adaptability: Quickly integrate feedback and adjust performance for live or filmed presentations.
- Artistic Interpretation: Elevate choreography through thoughtful musicality and personal artistic voice.
- Professional Readiness: Demonstrate effective rehearsal etiquette, collaboration, and self-discipline.
- Audition Preparedness: Exhibit polished presentation and adaptability under industry-simulated conditions.

Dress & Attire:

All Folx: Top – tank tops, fitted t-shirts, biker shorts, fitted or loose sweats, dance belt or athletic supporter, leotards, unitards, sports bra, tanks, fitted t-shirts, tights, leggings, capris, athletic gear, etc.

- ☐ **Shoes:** tennis shoes, jazz sneakers, jazz boots, professional modern dance heels

STUDIO ETIQUETTE:

- ☐ No food, drink, or gum permitted in class (*water is permitted)
- ☐ Arrive on time, prepared, and dressed to dance
- ☐ If you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class you will not be allowed to participate in the studio practice; however, you are strongly encouraged to take notes for partial credit
- ☐ Absolutely no cell phone usage while in the studio
- ☐ No dangling jewelry
- ☐ Remain active throughout the entire class
- ☐ Refrain from engaging in conversation during class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS:

- ☐ Attendance, participation, promptness and full engagement during class is essential for your improvement as a dancer and also fulfills the requirements for this course.
- ☐ Students must demonstrate professionalism, including not talking, sleeping, texting, internet surfing, and other behaviors that are not positive contributions to the class. Non-professional behaviors such as those listed above will be recorded and will be factored in your final grade, though a student cannot fail the class for this behavior alone.
- ☐ Professor Johnnie considers students to be individuals who are responsible for their own behaviors. Students are expected to make decisions with an awareness of the consequences that will most likely result from these decisions. If you enroll in the class, you are obligated to meet the responsibilities of this class, regardless of other commitments, including work, family, and other class obligations.
- ☐ Students are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their academic interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. This means that interactions are to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner, which is respectful and understanding toward both peers and professors. Failure to behave in a civil manner may result in disciplinary actions as described by the Student Conduct Code.

ATTENDANCE:

- ☐ For an absence to be considered excused, students must provide detailed documentation that specifies why the absence is absolutely necessary. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences– that is, 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 third 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.

- ☐ Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material is up to Professor Johnnie'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.

PARTICIPATION:

- ☐ This is a studio class. Only by being in the class can students learn the material and make progress. Attendance alone is not sufficient in meeting the course requirement. Students are expected to be present and on time for all classes.

ASSIGNMENT MAKE-UP:

- ☐ With the exception of documented crises specified in the attendance policy, assignments can be made up only if the student has made arrangements with Professor Johnnie at least 72 hours prior to the due date. Otherwise assignments cannot be made up and will receive a score of zero. All make-up course work must be completed within a week of the student's absence. No late assignments will be accepted. These policies are in place to keep students on track for finishing the course and so that your instructor can submit final grades in a timely fashion.

Please note the following:

- ☐ 2 unexcused absences are allowed for the semester.
- ☐ Class begins promptly at the scheduled time.
- ☐ 3 tardies = 1 absence

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- ☐ Written assignments will be assessed for content, creativity, persuasive and cogent writing, pre-visualization, and professional and collegiate standards of grammar, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and formatting. If you are able to attend class but cannot participate, a written assignment may be required during class time. Please consult with Professor Johnnie before the session begins. Written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, stapled, 12 point font and with 1-inch margins.
- ☐ The criteria and weighting for grading purposes are intended to assist in the learning process and to give useful guidelines for measuring progress. You are responsible for your own development and growth as a dancer with your instructor as a guide. We strongly suggest that you build in regular opportunities for personal studio time to review and to practice the materials covered in class. You are encouraged to attend all departmental events as part of your investment in your dance education. Lack of interest in these areas will not be looked upon favorably. Keep a journal. Include personal experiences and feedback that you have had as you progress throughout the term. Document your discoveries and goals.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

- ☐ **Performance Projects:** 40% – Execution, stage presence, and musicality in class and final performances.
- Participation & Professionalism:** 25% – Attendance, engagement, Vlog, and professional conduct.
- Choreography Assessments:** 15% – Retention and execution of complex combinations.
- Audition Simulations:** 10% – Preparation and adaptability in simulated auditions.
- Self-Reflection & Goal Setting:** 10% – Written reflections and progress evaluations.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

- ☐ The **A and A-** grades represent work whose superior quality indicates a full mastery of the subject. An A represents work of extraordinary distinction.
The grades of **B+, B, and B-** signifies that the student has, for any combination of reasons, demonstrated a significantly more effective command of the material than is generally expected.
The **C+, C, and C-** grades indicate that the student has demonstrated the required mastery of the material.
The **D+, D, and D-** grades represent unsatisfactory work that shows a deficiency of knowledge in the material.
The **F** grade represents work that fails to meet course requirements and deserves no credit.
- ☐ **In addition to these basic grade definitions, exams, assignments, and participation will be evaluated according to the following scale:**
- ☐

A=93-100	B-=80-82	D+=67-69
A-=90-92	C+=77-79	D-=60-62
B+=87-89	C=73-76	D=63-66
B=83 - 86	C-=70-72	F=59 and below

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

- ☐ UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with Professor Johnnie or TAs in this class.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ABSENCE POLICY:

- ☐ Students may only participate in classes if they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
- ☐ Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.
- ☐ Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by Professor Johnnie. Students must inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

- ☐ For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class, or any required class activity must inform Professor Johnnie as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact Professor Johnnie as soon as conditions permit.
- ☐ Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities because of the reasons outlined above.
- ☐ If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and they have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.

- ☐ The university recognizes the right of Professor Johnnie to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences. In such cases in which you are able to attend but are unable to participate (such as injury or illness), you may observe the class and take notes which must be turned in at the completion of the class time.

- ☐ Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance and grade averages.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ABSENCE:

- ☐ Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty: illness (doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted and when the return to class activity is expected, doctor name and signature), serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements

(e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate, court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena).

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:
 - ☐ The student is required to see a healthcare professional immediately.
 - ☐ 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.
 - ☐ 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.
 - ☐ 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.
 - ☐ 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.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY:

- ☐ At the University of Florida, students and faculty work together to allow students the opportunity to observe the holy days of their faith. A student should inform the faculty member of the religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance, with tests or examinations, or with other class activities prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. The faculty member is then obligated to accommodate that particular student's religious observances. Because students represent a myriad of cultures and many faiths, the University of Florida is not able to assure that scheduled academic activities do not conflict with the holy days of all religious

groups. Accordingly, individual students should make their need for an excused absence known in advance of the scheduled activities.

- ☐ The Florida Board of Education and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays.
 - ☐ The following guidelines apply:
 - ☐ Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith.
 - ☐ Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
 - ☐ Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.
 - ☐ If Professor Johnnie is informed of or is aware that a significant number of students are likely to be absent from class because of a religious observance, the faculty member should not schedule a major exam or other academic event at that time.
 - ☐ A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence. Furthermore, a student who believes that they have been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

TWELVE DAY RULE:

- ☐ Students who participate in university-sponsored athletic or scholarly activities are permitted to be absent 12 scholastic days per semester without penalty. A scholastic day is any day on which regular class work is scheduled as defined in the approved university calendar.
- ☐ The student or student's advisor must notify the instructor as early as possible prior to the anticipated absence to allow ample time for accommodations. Instructors must be flexible and not penalize students when rescheduling during-term and final exams, class assignments, and other required activities and must follow the UF Attendance Policy herein and UF Examination Policies. As noted in the UF Examination Policies, during-term exams should be rescheduled no later than before the end of the semester, while final exams no later than 90 days after the originally scheduled exam time. However, instructors are encouraged to reschedule final and during-term exams, assignments, and other activities as soon as possible after the last day of the absence and must not penalize the student in any way.
- ☐ A group's schedule that requires absence of more than 12 scholastic days should be adjusted so that no student is absent from campus more than 12 scholastic days. Students who previously have been warned in writing by their instructor about the impact of absences on their individual class performance should not incur additional absences, even if they have not been absent 12 scholastic days. The student is responsible to maintain satisfactory academic performance and attendance.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

- ☐ Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

IN-CLASS RECORDING:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

- ☐ A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited.
- ☐ To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS:

- ☐ Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- ☐ Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- ☐ University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- ☐ Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit

<https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

- ☐ UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608;
<http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>
- ☐ For some resources on studying in unsupportive environments, please take a look at this resource list compiled by the UF Department of Psychology:
 - ☐ https://docs.google.com/document/d/11IYAeLIZEGexvmxanpQjTOE4xw_wsMQgS4uwt7GohvM/edit

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

- ☐ E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- ☐ Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- ☐ Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- ☐ Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- ☐ Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- ☐ Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>
- ☐ On-Line Students Complaints:
<https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

COVID ADDENDUM:

- ☐ In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.
 - ☐ If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. 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:
<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>
 - ☐ Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
 - ☐ You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing.

- ☐ Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators:
 - ☐ Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - ☐ Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
 - ☐ If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.
- ☐ Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- ☐ If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- ☐ Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

- ☐ Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click [here](#) for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluer.com/ufl/.

EMAIL POLICY:

- ☐ It is the responsibility of the student to maintain and regularly check their email on this account. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence. It is not an excuse to claim that you did not receive the email because you did not check your account or that your account does not function properly.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

- ☐ Assignments, projects, due dates, and other parts of the syllabus are subject to change with prior notification. As we go through the semester, plans may need to change to enhance various learning opportunities. Such changes are not unusual and should be expected. Any changes in technique exam dates

due to unseen circumstances will be announced in class and posted on the dance board in a timely fashion.

COURSE CONTENT AND OUTLINE:

[Semester Overview: JAZZ](#)

Unit	Topics	Activities/Assignments/Exercises
One	TBA	In-class exercises, discussions & sequences
Two	TBA	In-class exercises, discussions & sequences
Three	TBA	In-class exercises, discussions & sequences
Four	TBA	In-class exercises, discussions & sequences
FINAL	Final Exam	Final

STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I have thoroughly read this syllabus for DAA 4344 Contemporary African & African Diaspora Dance 2 (JAZZ) and understand the attendance and grading policies as well as my responsibilities in order to successfully complete this course.

By taking this class I grant a non-exclusive license to University of Florida to use my likeness, my voice, any works created collaboratively by the class, and any audiovisual works I create to fulfill the requirements of this class for current and future publicity or other purposes through print, online, broadcast, screenings, and other media, with the single exclusion that the University may not post online any of my audiovisual works in their entirety before either obtaining my explicit consent or waiting a period of three years after the conclusion of this course. I retain sole ownership and rights to my own works created in this course; the rights to works created in small groups of less than four are owned in equal portion by the members of the creating group, while the rights to works created by larger groups (including the entire class) are owned by the University of Florida.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____