

General Information

Section: 1242(13398)

Meeting day/time: Monday/Wednesday, Period 2-3 (8:30 -10:25)

Location: Nadine McGuire Pavilion Studio G-10

Instructor: Meredith Farnum

Email: preferred email through Canvas Inbox or mfarnum@arts.ufl.edu

Office: Yon Hall

Office Hours: *Email me or speak with me before/after class to schedule a live or virtual appointment.*

Office Phone: 352-294-0458 / SOTD (School of Theatre and Dance) Main Office: 352-273-0500



Syllabi are posted at COTA website under: **Student & Parents:** <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>

Course Materials: available on Canvas

Catalog Description

Experience in contemporary approaches to dance technique, readings, observations and movement exploration. (credits: 2)

Prerequisite: **DAA 1000** or audition

Student Progression in Contemporary Dance Practices:

This information addresses the standards utilized by the dance area for assessing student progression through four levels of CDP. The program's approach to contemporary dance is in context to the UF BFA degree program, relying on traditional training standards along with the awareness of the stylistic and technical diversity of the UF dance program. Using the objectives stated in this syllabus, the dance program assesses student progress through CDP. Students are graded and considered for the next level according to their achievement of the criteria as determined by their instructor. Due to the nature of both training and levels in the UF program, receiving the final grade of "A" does not ensure progression to the next level.

Please Note: Our work in the studios is designed to be challenging; physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Dance classes often involve touching. Physical contact may range from simple touch to correct alignment. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If you have a related medical consideration or touch is uncomfortable or triggers trauma, please notify the instructor at the start of the semester via e-mail or personal meeting.

Course Objectives for Technique Courses

SOTD's technique curriculum is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students—majors, minors, and non-majors—to embrace the demands of 21st century artists. Each of the levels builds the required historical, aesthetic, and biomechanical foundations for graduating as a major in our dance degree programs. Likewise, the minor or non-major must recognize the classes as a pre-professional training ground by meeting the objectives at the appropriate level. When every student brings into every class their discipline and motivation, they will be ready to meet and greet the following goals common to each respective level of technique

Objectives:

- Develop continued attentiveness of alignment and placement while engaging in somatic and conditioning practices to enhance body/mind awareness.
- Acknowledge the related history to the aesthetic foundations of modern and post-modern that evolved into ongoing exploration and discovery.
- To establish a consistency of daily studio practice as well as using contemporary class progression, improvisation, and variation to build a basis for developing your technique.
- To approach all training, practice, and performance from an anatomically knowledgeable and core connected standpoint, especially while challenging preconceptions and allowing potential to fuel growth as a mover.
- Build musical, rhythmic, phrasing, and spatial skills suitable for contemporary techniques.
- Initiate the process of connecting theory and technique to creative practice.
- Create an environment to test and improve the student's kinesthetic awareness.

- To develop and practice absorbing new material efficiently and to perform combinations with attention to technical foundation and individual expression.
- Develop an appreciation of the theory, criticism, and aesthetic relating to contemporary dance practice.

Dance Etiquette and Attire:

Dance is an art and requires personal discipline and motivation. Respect for other students and the instructor is of the utmost importance.

When in class you will be attentive and active:

- ✓ Be aware of the appropriate times to talk and/or sit.
- ✓ Once you enter and are settled, come into the space to gather and stretch. This will prepare you physically and mentally for class to begin.
- ✓ Silence all devices and remove any wearable technology. Do not check devices during class or breaks unless there are extenuating circumstances that you have discussed with the instructor.
- ✓ Be ready to assemble in a circle no later than the start of class. This is an opportunity to check in, and often important class information is discussed.
- ✓ Attempt to wait for scheduled breaks to keep class disruption to a minimum.
- ✓ Participate/ Be Attentive during class discussions, feedback, and instructor explanations.
- ✓ Our class is a community. Be prepared, open-minded, brave, and engaged..

- Attire should be form-fitting and appropriate for movement.
- Hair needs to be pulled back neatly and away from face.
- Warmers should be form-fitting.
- No oversized clothing.
- Your ankles should be visible.
- Knee pads are encouraged.
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches.
- No chewing gum.

Attendance Guide:

SOTD Dance Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies.

- Mindful participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the classroom or virtual space, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.

- If you are not present when attendance is taken, or class begins please check in with the instructor. **Three tardies will equal one absence.**
- For extended health issues, communicate with the instructor for available options.

Information on make-up work: Any make-up work requires proper and official documentation from professional sources and is presented to the instructor by the next class meeting. To earn credit for an absence you must do two things:

- 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor
- 2) Make-up the class with an approved assignment. All Make-up assignments for excused absences must be completed by the last day of classes of the semester.

Makeup classes for unexcused absences are not available.

Attendance Policy:

Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this class. This requires you to be in class on time in the proper attire and with your attention focused on dance. Once in the studio, you should be warming up and stretching to prepare yourself for class.

For classes that meet two times a week:

- 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 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.

UF Attendance Policies

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

- You cannot participate in classes unless you 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.
- If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Please use the following locations for UF (University of Florida) resources for physical and mental health care:
<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)

Student online evaluation process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

Communication is especially important. Please come to me with all questions and concerns throughout the semester. You can make an appointment or talk to me immediately before or after class about your progress or if you have any questions. If questions pertain to the information in this syllabus, I ask that you read your syllabus thoroughly before asking an intelligent question on clarification. You are encouraged to ask questions during class and if you need or want more feedback from the instructor, please do not be afraid to ask. Remember, unless you communicate and come to me directly, I will assume that you are satisfied and happy. I want you to have a great dance experience.

Assignments and Tests

TOTAL POINTS TO EARN = 1000

Participation (including attire, positive attitude, being present, etc.)	200 points
Technical and Artistic Progression	100 points
Discussion Post and Responses (on Canvas) 70 pts initial post, 30 pts response post	100 points
Movement Study #1	100 points
Midterm Assessment and Feedback (in class)	100 points
Movement Study #2	100 points
Final Project/Paper: culminating presentation from movement studies. Can be either a solo work or collaboration.	300 points
Total points	1000

Grade Scale

Percentage	Points	Grade	Grade Points
93 – 100%	930 - 1000	A	4.00
90 – 92.99%	900 - 929	A-	3.67
87 – 89.99%	870 - 899	B+	3.33
82 – 86.99%	820 - 869	B	3.00
79 – 81.99%	790 - 819	B-	2.67
76 – 78.99%	760 - 789	C+	2.33
70 – 75.99%	700 - 759	C	2.00
67 – 69.99%	670 - 699	C-	1.67
64 – 66.99%	640 - 669	D+	1.33
59 – 63.99%	590 - 639	D	1.00
56 – 58.99%	560 - 589	D-	0.67
55% or below	550 or below	E	0.00

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

*Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, 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.

Annotated Weekly Schedule

Week 1 Introduction: review syllabus, icebreakers, Bartenieff Fundamentals and Body-Mind Centering – breath

Week 2 Continued somatic practice and warmup introduction – building on previous class – breath

Week 3 Warmup, floor work, progressions, improvisation – succession, opposition, suspension

Week 4 Warmup, floor work, improvisation, phrase work – succession, opposition, Suspension

Week 5 Warmup, floor work, improvisation phrase work – succession, opposition, suspension. **Movement Study #1 due 2/11**

Week 6 Warmup, floor work, progressions – weight/gravity, rebound,

Week 7 Warmup, floor work, progressions, improvisation – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery **Midterm Evaluations in class (2/23 &2/25)**

Week 8 Warmup, floor work, improvisation, phrase work – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery **Discussion Post due 3/6**

Week 9 Warmup, floor work, improvisation, phrase work – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery. **Movement Study #2 due 3/11**

Week 10 Spring Break (3/14-3/21)

Week 11 Warmup, floor work, progressions – isolation, initiation, intention

Week 12 Warmup, floor work, progressions, improvisation – isolation, initiation, intention

Week 13 Warmup, floor work, improvisation, phrase work – isolation, initiation, intention

Week 14 Warmup, floor work, phrase work – review of all movement principles. Prepare for final project presentation

Week 15 Warmup and work in class on Final Projects

Week 16 Final presentations. **Due 04/22**

***ALL ABOVE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO VARIATION.

Reading is required to keep up with the course. Material will be continually referenced in class and discussions for each module. Reference the syllabus and Canvas for more details.

Course Assessment Guidelines

The following Level Two guidelines follow the rubric created by Dance Area faculty:

- **Embodiment**

- KINESTHETIC AWARENESS: Students are able to integrate a moderate level of anatomical & kinesiological approaches to movement practice, including developing sense of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.
- MOVEMENT EXECUTION: Students are able to safely and accurately execute movement of moderate complexity with attention to weight transfer.
- ENERGY & CONDITIONING: Students are able to utilize and develop a moderate level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support, as well as energetic modulation.

• Artistry

- MUSICALITY & RHYTHM: Understands timing in movement and movement phrasing and demonstrates clarity of rhythmic patterning.
- PERFORMANCE QUALITY: Executes movement with confidence and demonstrates the ability to explore dynamic range.

• Communication

- Students begin to cultivate the clarity of personal voice and articulation of ideas.
- Ability to listen to themselves and others, with respect to differing opinions.

• Citizenship

- Takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus
- Demonstrates commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmates versus a select few as the course progresses; active engagement physically, including volunteering to show/demonstrate/lead.

Evaluations and Grading:

Midterm Feedback and Evaluation occur during the class. You will be observed by the instructor and perhaps other members of the dance faculty. Grades will be assigned based on the technical proficiencies listed above. For the BFA major, application of your technique work to concert/performance work will be factored into your technique grade.

GUIDING CONCEPTS

These following general concepts are applied to all areas of technical development and used by faculty to assess student progress:

“Self” Awareness and Ensemble Skills

The student demonstrates an ability to retain an awareness of self while integrating their movement into spatial relationships with other persons and groups. The student should also demonstrate clarity in three-dimensional movements and an ability to sustain directionality in exercises and in phrases of substantial length.

Transitional Skills (Continuity of Flow)

Exercises should be performed with an understanding and dynamic use of different types of phrasing. Students should demonstrate an ability to sequence a variety of movements into an extended phrase: recognizing and moving through transitions and demonstrating follow-through of movement impulses as appropriate.

Performance Quality (Dynamic Awareness)

Each instructor will provide the class with specific movement and performance goals that delineate for the student: suitable use of energy, range of dynamics and movement qualities, the images or mind-set to evoke expressive and/or stylistic qualities and functional details.

Required Performance and Event Participation

To help you to “think outside the box,” you must venture outside the studio!

BFA/BA Majors: In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required to some/all of the semester events plus 1 outside professional show. Your instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing which will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

Non-Majors: Required –One program of a SOTD dance performance or an outside professional show. Your instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing that will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

The assignments in this course are designed to help you develop writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills. As a course requirement it is expected that you will perform work for this class without the assistance of any artificial intelligence (AI) technology such as ChatGPT and Grammarly. **Therefore, if you submit assignments that have utilized an AI generator (in whole or part) you will be treated as having engaged in academic dishonesty.**

In an effort to be abundantly clear, while AI technology is new and constantly evolving, please know that using ChatGPT or any other AI text generator to assist in writing your papers, or completing other written assignments, is construed as plagiarism and will be treated as such. Those found to have engaged in such academic misconduct may be subject to any additional sanctions listed in the student

code. (see Section 3a, 3e, 3f, & 3h of [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) as well as the definition of entity)

UF POLICIES

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

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](#): 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 Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

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

[\[http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf\]](http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf)

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 [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the Student Health Care Center website](#).

<https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy)

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

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; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

1. UF has an Equal Access Mental Health Clinic that has a Free Therapy Night every Monday night that UF is considered open. Here is the FB page through which one can book appointments as well: <https://www.facebook.com/equalaccessclinic/>

2. The UF School of Medicine Equal Access Clinic website is here and has the above mental health services as well as specialized Women's and LGBT medicine:

<https://equalaccess.med.ufl.edu/specialty-clinics-classes/>

3. Alachua County Crisis Center web site:

<https://alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisiscenter/pages/services.aspx>

Offers Crisis Counseling as well as a Mobile Response Unit that attends severe mental health crises.

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.

Library Support: Numerous ways to receive assistance with respect to using libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

Dean of Students: [Areas and Service](#)

UF Online: [One Stop](#)