

University of Florida School of Theater and Dance

DAA 2610 Dance Composition 1

Spring 2026 - TR 12:50pm – 2:20pm

Nadine McGuire – G10

Course Information

Instructor of Record

Rujeko Dumbutshena

Email: rdumbutshena@ufl.edu

Office: Constans, Room 231

Comp 1 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Office Phone: (352) 294-9123

Communication

Do not hesitate to contact me. Communicating with me about your concerns, needs, and absences is key to your success in this class. I prefer emails and will reply to them within 24 hours. **Only your UFL.EDU email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.** I am available during office hours Tues & Thurs 12:00pm – 12:30pm or by appointment. Please email to schedule a meeting in [Rujeko's Zoom Room](#) outside of my office hours.

Required Texts

All required reading and viewing materials will be made available on Canvas as PDFs, through e-reserves, or hyperlinks. Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Canvas & Zoom

This course is set up on Canvas (e-learning) and may make use of Zoom for virtual meetings as needed. All students must have access to Canvas and Zoom on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. All assignments and out-of-class communication will take place in Canvas. A schedule and timeline for the course can be found on the Canvas calendar. For help with Canvas or Zoom, contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Dance Headquarters: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414947/modules#module_1363582

Course: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/528033>

All UF syllabi are subject to change. This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. During the semester, those plans may change, and updates will be communicated through Canvas announcements and in person. Your regular attendance and attention to announcements made on Canvas ensures you will be up to date.

Course Description

This course focuses on helping you discover methods and strategies to develop your own choreographic language. Through guided creative explorations, you will deepen your understanding of dance composition and expand your personal artistic capacities. The course introduces you to creative research by exploring your personal artistic lineage, key influencers, and sources of inspiration. You will learn to identify and develop your own creative processes. Strategies for choreography will be presented, drawing on a wide range of perspectives from contributors across the dance field. To support and inspire your creative growth, the course integrates various materials such as writings, images, videos, podcasts, and interviews. These resources will help you refine your unique artistic perspective and choreographic voice. The majority of the work will involve solo studies, though you will have the option to work on duets or trios for your final project. By the end of the course, you will gain clarity on your identity as a creative artist and refine your distinctive choreographic language.

Course Goals or Outcomes

Creative Process and Methodologies

- Practice methodologies that help your creative process.
- Think about your creative research.
- Learn to observe and describe what you see to better document your process.

Dance Composition and Exploration

- Examine aesthetics and principles of dance making through readings, viewings, responses, reflections, and movement exploration.
- Practice intelligent, articulate, and compassionate choreographic feedback to your classmates.

Research and Knowledge Building

- Build knowledge by researching artists from specific styles of dance who have and are contributing to the field.
- Identify your dance lineage.

Artistic Vision and Personal Development

- Think about and articulate your mission and vision statements.

Key Principles

- Choreographic Process
- Creative Research
- Inventing and Developing Movement Related to Space, Sound, and Time
- Performance of Choreography
- Collaboration
- Generating coherent, constructive, and clear feedback to your classmates.

Course Requirements

Assignment	Due	Points
Participation and Discussion	N/A	15
Movement Exploration 1	1/29	10
Movement Exploration 2	2/19	10
Movement Exploration 3	3/3	10
Midterm Project Preparation	2/12, 3/5	10
Midterm Project	3/12	10
Office Hours – self-assessment	3/25 or 27	5
Final Project Proposal	4/2	5
Final Project PowerPoint	4/16 or 21	10
Final Project Performance	4/16 or 21	15
TOTAL		100

Participation and Discussions– 15 points

You are expected to be ready to respond to questions, ask questions, and participate in discussions around readings, viewings, and other material related to our practice. Be prepared to be engaged mentally and physically in every class, to be generous observers of others' work, and to collaborate well with your peers. You are expected to have a notebook dedicated to documenting your creative ideas, inspired thoughts, and responsive reflections. **Bring your notebook to every class.** This will serve as your personal document. I will not read your entries. You are encouraged to write about your methodology and process for each dance you make. Also, take notes in class and use your journal to store information about artists that you research and draw inspiration from. Your participation, notetaking, and engagement in discussion will support your movement explorations, midterm paper, and final presentations.

3 Movement Exploration - 30 points

You will create 3 movement studies (3 solos) inspired by several different compositional explorations. You will present your explorations to your peers during class. Each movement study will be worth 10 points. Some of your creating will happen during studio time and you are

expected to work outside of our class period to develop your dances. Instructor and peer feedback will be a large part of the in-class presentations. **Due: 1/29, 2/19, & 3/3.**

Midterm Project Preparation: 10 points

For 6 weeks, 5 days a week you will create 5 seconds of movement material. By the middle of the semester, this will total **1.5 minutes**. You will work to develop and present this phrase as your mid-term project on **March 13**. During this process, you will be tracking your choices and document your process in your journal. Your journal entries along with articles and research will support you as you write your 2-page formal essay. **Due: 2/12, & 3/5.**

- **2/12 = 50 second video + journal entry, (5 points)**
- **3/5=50 second video + journal entry (5 points)**

Midterm Project: 10 points

You will record and submit your 1.5-minute midterm choreography video and participate in giving feedback to your peers (worth 5 points). A 2-page formal essay presenting your experimentations and methodology during this creative process is due on the day of the midterm video (worth 5 points). **Due: 3/12**

Final Project Proposal: 5 points

Your proposals for your final presentations are due for submission by the end of the day on **April 1**. Identify your theme, main idea, methodology (the tools and processes you will utilize), and the choreographers you will draw inspiration from. Let me know if you will be presenting a solo work, identifying your partner. Let me know if you and your partner are interested in setting a duet (you will not know for sure until you start working together). **100-150 words** (worth 5 points). **Due: 4/2**

Final Project: 25 points

For your final project, you will propose a theme or premise for a solo or duet work. For the second half of the semester, you will develop this dance and set it on a peer. Your partner will set their solo on you. If you are creating a duet or trio, you will work collaboratively in class with your partner. You will also present a PowerPoint reflecting the tools you used, and your process, and inspiration. Through your partnered or individual PowerPoint presentation, you will be required to situate yourself in the context of a lineage of artists and ideas from the field of dance making. **Due 4/16 or 4/21**

- **The PowerPoint (10 points)**
- **The dance (15 points)**

Weekly Course Schedule

**This schedule is subject to change*

Week	Dates	Tuesdays	Thursdays
1	Jan 13 & 15	Intro to syllabus Topic - Self: Identity. Lineage. Style Article - Ananya Chatterjea	Ananya Chatterjea article Movement generation – “The body is home”
2	Jan 20 & 22	Topic - Situating Self: Culture/Community Article: Ananya Chatterjea Movement generation – Space internal/personal	Article – Twyla Tharp “Scratching” Movement generation – Space environment People - creating scores from visual photos, drawings and writing
3	Jan 27 & 29	Topic: Process Note- Discussion Board Movement generation – Process Notes	<i>Movement Exploration (1) Due</i>
4	Feb 3 & 5	Topic: Intro to Design Principles Movement generation – Article: Find a company’s or artist’s mission statement/vision/philosophy	Topic: Feedback and critique Article: Liz Lerman article. Movement generation – Body/Space/Design Principles
5	Feb 10 & 12	Topic: Creative research Write: your mission statement /vision/philosophy Movement generation – inspired by lineage.	<i>Midterm video submission #1 Due 50seconds + 100word journal entry</i> Topic: Creative Research - Artists
6	Feb 17 & 19	Reflection – Take away from first 2 assignments. Movement exploration – Mimetic strategy (Bausch article). Tharp Exercise - Time/Emotion	<i>Movement Exploration (2) Due</i> Movement Generation – Harn Museum 1pm
7	Feb 24 & 26	Topic: Music Mapping Exercise	Movement generation – Mimetic strategy & Music Mapping Using – Space/Time/Design Principles/Repetition/storyboarding/
8	March 3 & 5	<i>Movement Exploration (3) Due</i>	<i>Midterm video submission #2 Due 50 seconds + 100word journal entry</i>

			Movement generation – Music mapping cont.
9	March 10 & 12	Working Classroom- Preparing for Midterm video presentations and essay	Midterm Due 1.5minutes + 2-page Essay
10	March 17 & 19	Spring Break	Spring Break
11	March 24 & 26	OFFICE HOURS Asynchronous work	OFFICE HOURS Asynchronous work
12	March 31 & April 2	GAME ON – Speed dating and planning	Final Planning, Solo work with partner Final Project Proposal Due
13	April 7 & 9	Edit and refine, choose music, practice solos/duets	Finalize Solos/Duets, Receive Feedback
14	April 14 & 16	Work on Presentations	Final Presentations Due
15	April 21 & 23	Final Presentations Due	NO CLASS

Grading Scale:

Grade	Point Range
A	94–100
A-	90–93
B+	86–89
B	83–85
B-	80–82
C+	77–79
C	73–76
C-	70–72
D+	67–69
D	63–66
D-	60–62
E	59 and below

Dance Area Attendance Policy (Fall 2024)

This course expects students to participate in in-person instruction. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time.

For classes that meet 2x/week, students can take 2 absences with no penalty; no documentation is required for the first 2 absences as they are automatically excused. **If the third absence is unexcused, it will result in 5-point 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-point deduction from the final grade. Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion and will be made available on an as-need basis.

Late arrival/ early departure: You are late if you arrive after role has been taken/class has begun.

- There will be a 5-minute grace period at the start and end of class.
- 3 late arrivals/ early departures for regular class meetings equals 1 unexcused absence.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness (including COVID-19*)—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, **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)
- To help organize accommodations, students should 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.

*If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. 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 (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Instructor note: If you are experiencing barriers to in-class attendance, such as lack of transportation, housing insecurity, or other things, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss solutions.

Participation

Attendance does not equal participation. Participation involves being present. The goal of class sessions is to challenge and support your development as a dance artist, 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
- removing potential distractions, such as cell phones and other devices
- active listening; careful, on-point contributions to discussions
- attending to fellow students' work and offering relevant feedback and critical support
- paying attention to the dynamics of the room and responding accordingly.

At the college level, students are expected to take responsibility for behaving in a demeanor corresponding to the professional field. Specific responsibilities are aimed toward deepening individual and collective artistic development.

UF Policies

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Resources for Health and Wellness

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> or 392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

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. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575.

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.

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

GatorWell: Mindfulness coaching, HIV testing, bulk condom request, and much more.
<https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>

Additional Mental Health Resources

● 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/>

- 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/>

- 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 to severe mental health crises.

UF Reporting & Resources: Sexual Harassment, Racism, Microaggressions, and more. See SoTD's processes for reporting incidents in the Student Handbook. UF-wide reporting mechanisms and resources include:

Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity: Resources and instructions for reporting a Title IX violation: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/report/>

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Campus Diversity Liaisons: The Campus Diversity Liaisons (CDLs) are members of the leadership team of each college or business unit. They put the university's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) strategy into action at the college and unit level. The CDLs are also networked into the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer and they come together to share best practices, brainstorm solutions, and build their competencies in IDEA work. <https://cdo.ufl.edu/about/campus-diversity-liaisons/>

RESPECT Team: The purpose of the RESPECT Team is to provide impacted parties of bias incidents opportunities to be heard and supported; understand and respond to situations that affect the University of Florida; educate and inform the community; and create awareness of ignorance and intolerance. <https://respect.ufsa.ufl.edu/>

Report through the University Ombuds: <https://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/>

Report a Student Concern: Report incidents or concerning student behavior that is happening in the University of Florida community. Navigate using the buttons below to connect with the appropriate reporting mechanism to share information related to student conduct or concerns. <https://report.ufl.edu/student-concern/>

UF Resources for Anti-Racism: <https://antiracism.ufl.edu/learn/uf-resources/>

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

Campus Resources for Academic Support

The Writing Studio: The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

More Academic Resources Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services. Library Support: 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.

The Orange Book: Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information

SPRING 2026 Dance Calendar

January

- 12 First Day of Classes / Welcome Meeting @ 6:30pm in G6
- 13 *Spring Into Dance* Auditions @ 6:30pm-9:30pm in G6
- 14-19 Shakia Barron Residency
- 16 Drop/Add Deadline
- 19 No Classes
- 20-22 On site visit Assist Prof. Candidate
- 21 Dance Alive's *Swan Lake* at UFPA
- 26 Spring Senior UnShowing 6:30pm in G6 +G10
- 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 (All Majors attending)

February

- 2 Spring Senior Unshowing TBD
- 6 BFA Dance Area Auditions
- 7 Harn SoundMoves TBD
- 12 Harn Museum Africa Night 6:30pm
- 13 Open Conversation during FMP, 10:40am-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 *Romeo and Juliet*, 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
- 4 @ 12:50: Combine Dance History & Kinesiology
- 5 @ 10:40: Afro-Brazilian
- 6 @ 10:40: Friday Movement Practice
- 10-11 bang bang in the Squiteri Theater, 7:30pm at UFPA
- 15-22 Spring Break / No Classes

24 Sa Dance Company – RISE, 7:30pm at UFPA

April

3 Midpoint Presentations during FMP, 10:40a-12:35p
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 *Spring into Dance*
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

DANCE MAJOR 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, Apr 3, 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
- Wednesday, Apr 22 @ 6:30pm – Final UnShowing in G6

RECOMMENDED FOR DANCE MAJOR CLASSES

(Including Dance Major required events above; events that are directly connected to dance performance somehow and/or SoTD)

- Tuesday, Jan 13 @ 6:30pm – *Spring into Dance* Auditions in G6
- Wednesday, Jan 21 @ 7:30pm – Dance Alive's *Swan Lake* at UFPA
- Friday, Jan 30 @ 10:40a – Master Class with Ric Rose Alumni Awardee, Andrea Ward in G6
- Friday, Feb 6 – Sunday, Feb 15, various times – *F-Punk Junkies* at SoTD
- Saturday, Feb 7 (time TBD) – *SoundMoves* at the Harn Museum
- Thursday, Feb 12 @ 6pm – *Africa Night* at the Harn Museum
- Tuesday, Feb 17 @ 7:30pm – Cirque FLIP Fabrique's *Blizzard* at UFPA
- Saturday, Feb 21 @ 7:30pm – Dance Alive's *Romeo and Juliet* at UFPA
- Friday March 6 @ 10:40am – Master Class with Master Dunham Technique Instructor, Rachel Tavernier in G6
- Tuesday, Mar 10 – Wednesday, Mar 11 @ 7:30pm – bang bang at UFPA
- Tuesday, Mar 24 @ 7:30pm – Sa Dance Company's *RISE* at UFPA
- Thursday, Apr 9 @ 6pm – Harn Museum Night with Choreographers-in-Residence
- Monday, Apr 20 @ 7:30pm – *The Music Man* at UFPA

