

## **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

### **School of Theatre & Dance**

**I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** DAA 3343 Contemporary African & African Diasporic Dance

Practices 3 - (Rotating Topic: Afro-Fusion Dance)

Semester & Year: Spring 2026

Meeting Days and Times: T/TH 3:00pm – 4:55pm

Building and Room: Nadine McGuire - G6

### **II. INSTRUCTOR:**

Name: Augusto Soledade

Email: asoledade@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 273-0506

Office Hours: T/Th from 1pm-3pm or by appointment

### **III. Course Description**

Afro-Fusion Dance Practice III is an advanced technique and creative practice course centered on the development of individual movement identity within African Diasporic contemporary dance. The course frames Afro-Fusion as an embodied dialogue between two Homes: the Home of inherited cultural belonging and the Home shaped by global contemporary experience. Through daily technique, compositional tasks, and repeatable routine development, students build a coherent personal dance idiom.

### **IV. Student Learning Outcomes**

- Articulate an individual Afro-Fusion movement practice.
- Understanding isolation through clear articulation in the limbs and spine.
- Apply rhythm, pulse, effort, and texture as expressive tools.
- Execute routines fluently.
- Analyze cultural identity through embodied research.

### **V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:**

All readings will be posted to Canvas as hyperlinks and downloadable PDFs.

**Reading 1: TBD Followed by class discussion**

## **Video 1: Garth Fagan Dance Followed by class discussion**

\*Readings and videos will be used as elements of contextualization of the physical experiences generated in class.

## **VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES: Expectations:**

Student will

- Attend classes regularly, be on time and ready to work for the entire class period.
- Maintain a professional working attitude.
- Participate in all in class activities, engaging fully both mentally and physically.
- Strive to improve individual progress by demonstrating increased strength, flexibility and an increased awareness of body alignment, timing and spatial pathways.
- Observe dance class etiquette (cell phone use, dress code, lateness policy etc.)
- Strive to apply given corrections and concepts to movement.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Writing Assignments**

#### **1. Reflective Movement Journal**

Throughout the semester, students are required to maintain a weekly-entry reflective movement journal that documents their ongoing engagement with the class material. This journal serves as a space to articulate how the body is processing the movement concepts explored in class, including technical challenges, physical adaptations, and moments of clarity or resistance. Students should reflect on their creative process, personal discoveries, and evolving movement identity, with particular attention to how the Afro-Fusion framework and the dialogue between inherited and contemporary movement influences are experienced physically and perceptually. Entries should prioritize embodied insight over description, emphasizing sensation, awareness, and meaning-making as tools for artistic growth. Journals will be reviewed and assessed based on consistency, depth of reflection, and thoughtful engagement with the course practice.

**This writing assignment is due every week on Sunday by 11:59PM**

### **Dance Concert Assignment**

**2. Attend at least two dance concerts this semester. You may choose two out of the following: BFA Dance Concert, Spring into Dance or any dance performance presented at the University Performing Arts Center. Attentive Observation: as you watch the performance, pay close attention to approaches, cultural contexts and artistic choices brought about in the work and compare it to your experience in class. The objective is to understand the intricacies and complexities in art making. Avoid making judgement.**

- Assignment due by 04/21 11:59pm

## VII. GRADING CRITERIA:

### Final Course Grade:

Evaluation 1 (in-class assessment)	35%
Evaluation 2 (in-class assessment)	35%
Dance Concert Attendance	10%
Written Assignments	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades translate to percentages as follows:

### Grades

95 – 100	A
90 – 94	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
65 – 69	D+
60 – 64	D
59 and below	F

## Rubrics for Participation

	1	2	3	4	5
Attitude					
Motivation					
Application of Direction/Corrections					
Overall level of progress					

## Rubrics for In-class Assessment

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Placement and Alignment:</b> understands the relationship of body parts to one another. Understands how body parts form an aligned physical structure.					
<b>Conditioning:</b> utilizes and develops a foundational level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support.					
<b>Spatial Awareness and Full Body Integration:</b> understands a foundational level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches in movement practice, including an understanding of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.					
<b>Rhythmic Clarity/Musicality:</b> understands timing in movement and movement phrasing.					
<b>Performance Quality:</b> executes movement with confidence. clearly designs space with movement and executes movement with sophistication and nuance.					
<b>Movement Execution:</b> safely and accurately executes movement of simple to moderate complexity.					
<b>Energy:</b> reproduces appropriate level of energy when executing movement.					
<b>Retention:</b> remembers movement phrase and can perform it in its entirety.					

**Performance Assignments:** N/A

**Exams:**

Mid-term in-class assessment – 02/24

Mid-term individual feedback – 02/26

Final in-class assessment – 04/14

Final individual feedback – 04/16

**Presentations:** N/A

**Attendance:**

**For Studio Courses**

For classes that meet twice a week (T/Th from 10:40am-12:35pm and F from 10:40am to 12:35pm):

- Students can take **2** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If the fourth absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- Excused or unexcused, on the fourth absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- If the fifth 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.

**Note:** 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). 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.

**Tardy Policy: You are late after role has been taken/class has begun.**

- Points will be deducted for being late or leaving early for any reason.
- There will be a 5-minute grace period.
- 3 tardies for regular class meetings equal 1 unexcused absence.

**Make-up Policy**

- Excused absences (those that can be documented) may be made-up in the following manner:
  - Non-Majors: Approved Performance Event/Written Assignment
  - <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/excuse.shtml> (Infirmary)
  - <http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)
  - If unable to dance, you may 'actively' observe for full credit. You will complete an observation paper due at the end of class.
  - Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion

**Injuries are special cases.** If an injury occurs see/contact me immediately regarding absences, make-ups or possible withdrawal from the class.

**Late assignments:** Unless otherwise indicated, all homework assignments are due in class on the date listed on the syllabus. An essay received after the due date is late.

**Studio Rules of Conduct:**

In effort to keep our dance space a peaceful, safe and clean environment for our students we ask that you observe the following:

- No gum- this is also for safety reasons since we don't want dancers choking.
- No talking, food or quick pick-me-ups during class. However, you may keep water bottles inside the studio for hydration provided they have caps to prevent spills.

- All phone calls must take place outside of the studio and NEVER during class time. If you have an emergency situation you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class. Ringing cell phones, texting etc. are disruptive to classroom activity. Please be considerate.

Note: 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. 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).

## **VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPIC OUTLINE:**

Class schedule is subject to modification, but not without prior notification. Please note class material is sequential and comprehensive. Please take time to review movement sequences before and after class.

### **Course Schedule (Exact Dates)**

#### **Week 1**

Tuesday, January 13:

- Introduction
- Building Warm up 1
- Pulse
- Exploration: Two Homes

Thursday, January 15:

- Building Warm up 1
- Halves
- Exploration: External Space

## **Week 2**

Tuesday, January 20:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Initiation Points

Thursday, January 22:

- Building Warm up 1
- Expressivity
- Exploration: Micro-Movement

## **Week 3**

Tuesday, January 27:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Limb Articulation

Thursday, January 29:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Lower Body Coordination

## **Week 4**

Tuesday, February 03:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Spine Articulation

Thursday, February 05:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Front Body/ Back Body

## **Week 5**

Tuesday, February 10:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Contralateral Patterns

Thursday, February 12:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Fusion

## **Week 6**

Tuesday, February 17:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Upper/Lower Units

Thursday, February 19, 2026:

- Building Warm up 1
- Exploration: Tension / Release

## **Week 7**

Tuesday, February 24:

- In-class Assessment

Thursday, February 26:

- Individual Feedback

## **Week 8**

Tuesday, March 03:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Effort Qualities

Thursday, March 05:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Countering Gravity

## **Week 9**

Tuesday, March 10:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Momentum

Thursday, March 12:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Giving In

## **Week 10**

Tuesday, March 17:

- **SPRING BREAK**

Thursday, March 19:

- **SPRING BREAK**

## **Week 11**

Tuesday, March 24:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Breath → Space

Thursday, March 26:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Spatial Architecture

## **Week 12**

Tuesday, March 31:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Polyrhythm

Thursday, April 02:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Syncopation

## **Week 13**

Tuesday, April 07:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Individual Movement

Thursday, April 09:

- Building Warm up 2
- Exploration: Timing Identity

## **Week 14**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026: In-class Assessment 2

Thursday, April 16, 2026: Individual Feedback

## **Week 15**

Tuesday, April 21, 2026:

- Last Day
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## **Semester Calendar**

The updated semester calendar will be posted on Canvas.

## **University Policies**

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found [here](#).