

**New World School of the Arts  
Modern Senior Level 5 – DAA4111  
Syllabus – Spring 2026  
University of Florida / Miami Dade College / NWSA Dance Division**

**Term: Spring 2026**  
**Department: Dance**  
**Course Title: Modern Senior Level 5**

**Schedule:**  
**Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**Wednesday 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM**  
Location: NWSA Studios

**Professors:**  
**Gentry Isaiah George**  
ggeorge3@mdc.edu

**Jeff Smith**  
jsmith12@mdc.edu

Office Hours:  
*Please email to schedule an appointment.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Modern Junior Level 4 is an upper-level technique course centered primarily on the Horton Technique, with supporting principles from Martha Graham and José Limón. This course deepens understanding of modern dance's foundational principles: linear clarity, weight, fall-and-recovery, breath, musicality, and expressive intention. Students will refine technical precision, expand their dynamic range, and cultivate an embodied, investigative approach to movement practice.

The class emphasizes alignment, musical awareness, expressive phrasing, and modern dance's unique physical demands. Students will engage in progressive sequences, center work, across-the-floor phrases, and repertory excerpts.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will:

Develop advanced proficiency in Horton Technique including:  
clarity in shape, line, and directional focus  
understanding of fortifications, preludes, and lateral studies  
articulation of torso, pelvis, and limbs in codified forms

Expand their movement efficiency and expressive range through Graham and Limón principles, including fall-and-recovery, as well as contraction/release

Explore modern repertory excerpts to deepen musicality, performance quality, and dynamic contrast.

Apply somatic awareness to self-correction, technical analysis, and personal artistry.

Demonstrate professional discipline, studio etiquette, and collaboration expected at the junior level.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

**Competency 1:** Demonstrate advanced modern dance vocabulary with clarity, coordination, and expressive nuance.

**Competency 2:** Apply concepts of alignment, weight, and dynamic contrast to center and travelling phrases.

**Competency 3:** Develop stamina, musical sensitivity, and control through repeated practice of complex sequences.

**Competency 4:** Exhibit professional conduct, responsibility, teamwork, and adaptability in a studio environment.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

Communicate effectively through movement and verbal articulation of ideas.

Solve problems using critical and creative thinking.

Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.

Engage in ethical thinking and conduct.

Use technology effectively in research and practice (video analysis, movement recording).

Demonstrate appreciation for aesthetics and creative processes.

## **COURSE METHODOLOGY**

Classes will consist of Horton warm-ups, fortifications, lateral studies, modern center practice, Graham floorwork, Limón phrasework, and choreographic progressions. The complexity of combinations will increase throughout the semester.

Technical goals include:

**Horton:** Fortifications 1–6, Lateral T studies, Preludes

**Graham:** Contraction/release fundamentals, spiral sequences, across-the-floor initiation work

**Limón:** Fall–rebound–suspend principles, breath phrasing, weight flow and swing

Students will receive ongoing faculty feedback and periodic evaluations.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend every class meeting.

Allowed absences: *3 per semester total* (team-taught course → 3 absences across both instructors).

Tardiness is disruptive; students arriving after the warm-up sequence may be asked to observe for safety.

Repeated absences or non-participation may result in probation or removal from the program.

### **CLASS ATTIRE – MODERN DANCE**

Students must wear clean, well-fitted dancewear that allows full visibility of alignment:

Solid-colored leotards, unitards, or fitted tops

Footless tights or fitted dance pants

No socks unless required for repertory

Hair must be secured away from face and neck

No jewelry, loose accessories, watches, or distracting nail polish

No oversized shirts, sweatpants, or baggy layers

Warm-up layers allowed only for the first two exercises

Non-compliance may result in observing rather than participating.

### **INJURY & ILLNESS POLICY**

All injuries or contagious illnesses must be reported immediately.

More than 2 absences due to injury require a doctor's note submitted to the Dean.

Students not healthy enough to dance may observe, take notes, and submit them to the instructor.

In specific cases, modified participation will be arranged (e.g., seated upper-body work).

### **CLASS ETIQUETTE**

Arrive early and warm up.

Place all personal items on the side of the room.

Only water bottles allowed in studio.

No gum, no street shoes on the dance floor.

Maintain professionalism during demonstrations, corrections, and transitions.

Apply all corrections—even those not addressed directly to you.

Thank your instructors at the end of class.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

All phones must be silenced and stored away.

No texting or device use during class.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic honesty is expected in written assignments, video submissions, and any collaborative work. Plagiarism, misrepresentation of attendance, falsifying injury documents, or inappropriate use of studio recordings will be treated according to MDC and UF standards.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to:

Attend regularly and be punctual

Maintain professionalism in all interactions

Demonstrate a consistent work ethic and positive class contribution

Strive for technical and artistic excellence

Communicate respectfully and responsibly

Take ownership of their physical health and training

## **GRADING**

Final grades reflect the average of both instructors.

**Attendance:** 30%

**Student Professionalism:** 20%

**Technique:** 25%

**Improvement / Retention:** 10%

**Evaluation (Midterm & Final Jury):** 10%

**Written Assignments / Quizzes:** 5%

### **Grading Scale:**

A – Excellent

B – Good

C – Average

D – Poor

F – Fail

## **CRITERIA USED FOR EVALUATION**

### **1. Attendance**

Presence, punctuality, participation.

### **2. Professionalism**

Class preparation and demeanor

Proper attire and hygiene

Communication with instructors

Engagement and application of corrections

Leadership and collaboration

### **3. Technique**

Quality of movement and clarity of shape

Use of torso (contraction, lateral stretch, spiral)

Strength, alignment, coordination

Musicality, dynamics, and phrasing

Center and across-the-floor proficiency

Artistry, focus, and performance presence

### **4. Benchmarks**

Effort, work ethic, personal growth  
Self-awareness and self-regulation  
Attitude, focus, and contribution to class culture

### **5. Written Work / Quizzes**

Clarity of language  
Correct terminology  
Evidence of self-directed study

## **REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

### **Required Readings:**

*Lester Horton Technique: The Purpose and Philosophy* (selected chapters)  
*Martha Graham: A Dancer's Life* (excerpts)  
*José Limón: An Unfinished Memoir* (excerpts)  
Additional essays and PDF articles provided throughout the semester

### **Recommended Texts:**

*The Modern Dance* – Stodelle  
*Horton Technique: The Corrective System* – Ana Marie Forsythe  
*Dance Anatomy* – Jacqui Haas

## **NWSA STUDENT RIGHTS & RESOURCES**

Every student has the right to feel safe in their school learning environment. At New World School of the Arts discrimination, intimidation, retaliation, and harassment are not tolerated. I ask your support in developing a healthy, safe, and respectful learning environment.

Tell It, Don't Take It:

If you experience/feel discrimination at NWSA please report your concerns to faculty, Dean Burns, Leslie Wilson, or the college counselor. You may also report your concerns anonymously by using the Anonymous Hotline (305)237-3709

[https://nwsa.mdc.edu/images/files/pdf/tell\\_it.pdf](https://nwsa.mdc.edu/images/files/pdf/tell_it.pdf)

Students Rights & Responsibilities:

<https://www.mdc.edu/rightsandresponsibilities/Students>

Code of Conduct:

<https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter4/4025.pdf>

Students with special needs:

<https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter4/4055.pdf>

Addressing Academic Dishonesty:

<https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter4/4035.pdf>

Religious Observances by Students:

<https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter4/4067.pdf>

Library Resource Center:

The library is located on the 2nd Floor of Building #1 (room #1216). You must have a valid MDC card for book checkout. The library is open from 7:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Saturdays. You may check out books at any of MDC campuses. You must have a current ID in order to use the MDC library. The Main Miami-Dade Public Library is located at 101 Flagler Street within walking distance of NWSA. Access Center: By providing a variety of services that address a spectrum of disabilities, the ACCESS department works to ensure equal access and opportunity throughout the college experience. (305) 2373072

<https://www.mdc.edu/access/>

Public Safety:

The LiveSafe app allows you to register for safety updates for your Wolfson campus. Wolfson Campus office of public safety (305)237-3100. Faculty Feedback: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online sent by Miami Dade College. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive.

Lost and Found:

Any personal belongings left in a room in Building 5 will be collected by the MDC's cleaning staff every evening. If the found items appear to have any value, it is taken to the Security Office in Building I. Items are only brought to the main office if they are found during class time.

### **NOTE FROM THE INSTRUCTORS**

The professors reserve the right to modify this syllabus as needed to support student learning, safety, and the artistic integrity of the course.