

UF School of Theater and Dance

I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: DAN (3614) Music for Dance

Semester & Year: Spring 2026

Meeting Days and Times: M/W 3:00-4:55 P.M.

Building and Room: Nadine McGuire – Con. G6

II.

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Kenneth Kramer Metzker

Email: kmetzker@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Music for Dance course will introduce students to the fundamental elements of music most closely connected to the practice of dance. Students will study music theory, music terminology, aural training, singing, rhythm, music embodiment, improvisation, music history and compositional approaches. Kenneth's expertise in music of the African Diaspora, as well as his training in classical percussion and piano, will make the course well rounded, exploring a variety of both Western and Non-Western musical styles and cultural influences as they relate to dance. Students will develop a deeper understanding of musicality and how it relates to their dance practice through class exercises, music based compositional approaches to choreography, embodying music vocabulary and understanding how to communicate with collaborating musicians and composers.

Students will develop listening skills and keep a journal throughout the entire course. Test quizzes, exercises, journaling and creating musical/dance compositions created from the material studied will provide students with an intimate understanding of music and how it relates to the world of dance.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Communicate clearly about music, especially in relationship to dance, using a musically literate vocabulary.
2. Create a richer and more vital relationship to music when dancing; comment insightfully on the musicality expressed through choreography and by individual dancers.
3. Identify and describe important features of the formal organization of pieces of music from a variety of historical and stylistic sources.
4. Know the use of musical concepts and terminology and how they might affect movement.

5. Identify (aurally) forms of melodic and harmonic sonorities and specific emotions that each might suggest.
6. Select music (for dance) with an awareness of the historical and cultural connotations delivered by the music of different styles.
7. Practice application of above outcomes in choreography and performance.

V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

- "Ear Training for the Body: A Dancers Guide to Music." By Katherine Teck (please purchase and have with you during class.)
- Other course readings, audio, and video files will be provided electronically or in class. - Please set up a free account with Spotify at www.spotify.com.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Expectations:

- Students 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:

Journal Entries

Students will keep a journal throughout the course to document:

- 1) the learning process
- 2) important concepts and thoughts from class readings
- 3) creative exercises and processes explored in class

Journals have no style or length requirements. Entries should show thoughtfulness on the class readings, lectures, listening, and exercises and connect these ideas to their larger artistic practice and goals.

Quizzes

Two quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of short answer questions, listening identification, and a short essay related to the class readings. Quizzes are open note, but you are expected to take the quiz alone and do your own work.

Performance review

Students will be required to attend 1 performance related to a dance and musical performance. For the performance, write a brief (1-2 pages) description/analysis. Try to incorporate and interact with ideas and concepts from our class readings and discussions in your analysis. The paper is due at the following class meeting after the performance you attend.

Choreographic Studies

Students will work to create short choreographies based on musical elements and styles studied throughout the course, incorporating a variety of approaches:

Study #1: Meter and Rhythm

Students will individually choreograph a 60-second piece that explores the rhythmic concepts covered in class. This should be choreographed to an excerpt of music that prominently features rhythm. (Suggested music TBD).

Study #2: Applying compositional approaches to choreography. In small groups, students will choose one stylistic period of music and create a 60-second choreography based on the compositional strategies/concepts of the time-period.

Final Project

Selecting music for choreography:

In groups, students will collaboratively choreograph a three-minute work applying musical compositional approaches to choreography. Students will then apply their knowledge of musical styles as well as concepts and theories about music selection to choose appropriate music for their choreography.

Exams: TBD

Presentations: N/A **Attendance:**

For Studio Courses

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 for unexcused absences 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, 2 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

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.

VII. 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.

Week One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction · Intro to Music Theory/Rhythm
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Week Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Intro to Harmony and Melody/Terminology
Week Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Music Theory/Rhythm/Melody/Terminology
Week Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Intro to Musical Form
Week Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phrasing/Musical Sonorities/Form Structure
Week Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Musical Expression/Sonorities
Week Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Quiz#1
Week Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Choreographic study #1 due/ West African/Afro-Caribbean/South/Central American music

Week Nine	Asian/Middle Eastern/Indian music
Week Ten	American Folk Music
Week Eleven	Jazz/Latin Jazz/Dixieland/New Orleans/Swing/
Week Twelve	Choreographic Study #2
Week Thirteen	Quiz#2
Week Fourteen	Review
Week Fifteen	Final Project Presentations

VIII.

Final Course Grade:

Your final grade is determined by your performance on a number of different tasks:

Quizzes	20%
Journal Entries	10%
Performance review	20%

Choreographic Studies	20%
Final Project	10%
Participation	20%
TOTAL	100%

Participation will be evaluated primarily on your performance in class including:

1. Work- the amount of effort a student gives to master new concepts.
2. Progress- the growth and development of physical and musical capabilities and understanding.
3. Attitude- a constructive, positive interest must be apparent toward the group and the material, with a willing, open approach to try new methods and ideas.
4. Discipline- the student's consistent commitment to performing the exercises and carrying out the assignments. Achievement- the understanding and refinement of assignments. The total accomplishment made over the course of the semester.
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SPRING 2026

January

8-9	Dance Area Mini-Retreat (half day) Syllabi Due
12	First Day of Classes / Welcome Meeting @ 6:30pm in G6
13	<i>Spring Into Dance</i> 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**
 26-27 / 27-28 On site visit Assist Prof. Candidate 2
 28-29 On site visit Assist Prof. Candidate 3
 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 (Faculty, staff, and DSC attending)

February

2 **Spring Senior UnShowing???**
 2-3 On site visit Lecturer Candidate #1
 4-5 On site visit Lecturer Candidate #2 TBD
 6 BFA Dance Area Auditions
7 **Harn SoundMoves**
 9-10 On site visit Lecturer Candidate #2 or #3
 12-13 On site visit Lecturer Candidate #3 TBD
 12 Harn Museum Africa Night
13 **Possible Open Conversation during FMP, 10:40a-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
 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/CRAs, 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
23-24	Reading Days
May	
4	Grades Due
5-15	Dance Area Spring Retreat (2 days)

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
- Tuesday, Mar 10 – Wednesday, Mar 11 @ 7:30pm – bang bang at UFPA
- Tuesday, Mar 24 @ 7:30pm – Sa Dance Company’s *R/ISE* at UFPA
- Thursday, Apr 9 @ 6pm – Harn Museum Night with Choreographers-in-Residence
- Monday, Apr 20 @ 7:30pm – *The Music Man* at UFPA

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

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

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