

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

School of Theatre & Dance

I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: DAN 4180 Professional Development for Dance

Semester & Year: Spring 2026

Meeting Days and Times: F 9:35am – 10:25am

Building and Room: Nadine McGuire – G10

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

This lecture-based course prepares dance students for professional practice in performance, choreography, teaching, studio ownership, graduate study, and community-based work. Students create professional materials, build digital portfolios, develop grant proposals and budgets, audition strategies, and learn ethical, financial, and contractual foundations for sustainability.

IV. Learning Outcomes

1. Develop grant writing skills including project narrative and budget
2. Understand the functioning of nonprofit dance companies
3. Understand the different aspects of dance as a business from studio owning to self-represented independent artist.
4. Create materials in preparation for post undergraduate program including application for graduate school, auditioning and starting own business.

V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

No Book Required.

Suggested Reading List: material will be posted on Canvas

- Artist Bio Tips*
- Artist Resume Tips*
- Cover Letter Tips*
- Other reading material TBA

*material provided by the Creative Capital Artist Workshop and shared by permission from Creative Capital.

Recommended Bibliography

1. The Cycle – Michael Kiser, Brett Egan: https://www.amazon.com/Cycle-Practical-Approach-Managing-Organizations/dp/1611684005/ref=pd_sbs_14_t_0/135-5981261-1808727?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1611684005&pd_rd_r=5f4ef7cb-c570-494e-b980-1fdd9302ea57&pd_rd_w=DD5CK&pd_rd_wg=4Yb1o&pf_rd_p=5cfcfe89-300f-47d2-b1ad-a4e27203a02a&pf_rd_r=ZEEHXHPSKC63DK8GQNSG&psc=1&refRID=ZEEHXHPSKC63DK8GQNSG
2. The Art of the Turn Around: Creating and Maintaining Healthy Arts Organizations – Michael Kiser: https://www.amazon.com/Art-Turnaround-Creating-Maintaining-Organizations/dp/1584657359/ref=pd_sbs_14_1/135-5981261-1808727?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1584657359&pd_rd_r=8f038fe1-d158-4aba-b970-d5c476267e2c&pd_rd_w=EvkCQ&pd_rd_wg=Oo3Ph&pf_rd_p=bdd201df-734f-454e-883c-73b0d8ccd4c3&pf_rd_r=W36TM0VPNJYCWHGFD2KX&psc=1&refRID=W36TM0VPNJYCWHGFD2KX

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.
- Observe dance class etiquette (cell phone use, lateness policy etc...)

Assignments

- CV & Resume
- Artist Statement
- Mission Statement
- Cover Letter
- Grant Application
- Project Budget
- Dance Reel
- Website

Dance Concert Attendance Assignment:

Attend at least two dance concerts this semester. You may choose two out of the following: BFA Showcase, 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 on 04/21 by 11:59pm

Exams: N/A

Presentations: N/A

Attendance: Mandatory

Lecture/ Seminar Courses

For classes that meet once a week:

- Students can take **1** absence with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If the second absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- Excused or unexcused, on the second absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- If the third 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.**

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 assignment 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 you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class. Ringing cell phones, texting etc. is 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).

VII. Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Jan 16 (sync)	Introduction to professional pathways, what are your interests and needs that should be addressed in the semester? networking foundations, ethics overview.
Jan 23 (async)	CV and Resume Building; Contracts, Rights & Artist Protection
Jan 30 (sync)	Artist Statement Development; Cultural Responsibility
Feb 06 (sync)	Starting a nonprofit: Mission Statement, Board of Directors; Fiscal Agent
Feb 13 (sync)	Financial Literacy for Artists; Personal Budgeting; Project Budget; Waveapp
Feb 20 (async)	Cover Letters; Professional Communication
Feb 27 (sync)	Interviews; Audition Readiness; Career Resilience; Zoom Interview with Leonardo Brito
Mar 06 (async)	Studio Owning
Mar 13 (sync)	Grant Writing; Ethical Proposal Narratives
Mar 20	SPRING BREAK
Mar 27 (async)	Mock Grant Panel Discussion Budgeting for Artists; Funding Strategies
Apr 03 (sync)	Graduate School: MA x MFA; How to apply
Apr 10 (async)	Dance Reel Planning; Website Development
Apr 17 (sync)	Final Dance Reel & Website; Career Launch Planning

VIII. GRADING CRITERIA:

Final Course Grade:

Your final grade is determined by your performance on several different tasks:

Participation Rubrics

Criteria	1 – Least	2	3	4	5 – Most
Attitude	Consistently resistant or disengaged; disrupts learning.	Often resistant or disengaged; limited respect for peers.	Neutral or inconsistent engagement.	Generally engaged and receptive.	Consistently engaged, respectful, and constructive.
Self-Motivation	Rarely prepared; no initiative.	Often unprepared; relies on prompting.	Meets minimum expectations.	Usually prepared and self-directed.	Highly self-motivated; exceeds expectations.
Engagement in In-Class Activities	Avoids participation.	Minimal or distracted participation.	Participates when prompted.	Active and consistent participation.	Fully engaged; leads by example.
Engagement in In-Class Conversations	Does not participate or disrupts discussion.	Rarely contributes.	Occasional contributions.	Thoughtful and regular contributions.	Insightful leadership in discussion.

Assignments	80%
Discussion Board Responses	10%
Participation	5%
Dance Concert Attendance	5%
TOTAL	100%

Letter grades translate to percentages as follows:

Percentage	Final Grade
95 and above	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
Below 63	F

Semester Calendar

The updated semester calendar will be posted on Canvas.

University Policies

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