

**DAA 3612 Improvisation/Composition  
Fall 2016**

**NOTE:**

*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.*

*A new syllabus will be issued by the Instructor should major changes occur.*

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### **Student Learning Outcomes**

#### **Objectives**

The primary focus of this course is the study and application of the basic principles of DANCE COMPOSITION as it relates to Concert Dance. The course will include daily movement/improvisation sessions, several choreographic study assignments (one of which will double as a midterm and one of which will double as a final choreographed project), an extensive journal that is based on these sessions and assignments, classroom discussions and final Project.

#### **Textbooks**

1. The Intimate Act of Choreography, by Blom & Chaplin(optional)

#### **Grading**

1. Attendance - because of the nature of this course, **attendance and participating is mandatory**. Two absences are allowed, thereafter every absence lowers grade by 25 points. **Three times late or observing class is the same as an absence. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED CLASSES.**
2. Movement/Improvisation Session. Nearly every class. Be prepared.
3. Monthly Choreographic Studies. Group Choreography, Solo/Self Study, Choreography on classmates, These will be assigned and graded Acceptable or Unacceptable (similar to pass/fail)
4. Journal complete with performance reflections, choreographic studies, and Improv. Sessions.

#### **Evaluation**

1. Attendance/Participation – 15%
2. Weekly Chorographic studies – 20%
3. Midterm Choreographic Study – 20%
4. Final chorographic Project – 25%
5. Journal—20%

**The grading scale will be:**

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	95%
A-	90%
B+	89%
B	85%
B-	80%
C+	75%
C	70%
C-	65%
D+	60%
D	55%
D-	50%
F	49% and below

Please come to class a few minutes early to warm up. **No one over 10 minutes late may participate in class.** If over 10 minutes late is considered a tardy, **3 times late is an absent.** Please observe class and **a written critique of the class must be turned in at the end of that class** to receive credit for attendance.

**Attire/Dress Code**

Because of the nature of the course you are required to wear nonrestricting clothing, appropriate dancewear is desired. Sometime movement studies will call for shoes and sometimes they won't. Get in the habit of bringing along dance shoes i.e. ballet or jazz shoes just in case. Jeans are not allowed. Hats/caps, jewelry, perfume, and body lotion or oils, can hinder partner work and/or aggravate allergies. Please wear deodorant and use proper hygiene!

**Journal  
Due December 2**

A computerized/typewritten journal of the Movement/Improvisation sessions and Choreographic Studies must be kept. **HANDWRITTEN WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Entries must be made at a rate of at least one page per week for a total of at least 13 pages when due **DATED** at least weekly. You are given much latitude as to the content of your journal. It should, however, contain dated entries and include your personal feelings and thoughtful comments as to the movement/improvisation experiences and choreographic assignments for that specific class. Your writings must be thought-out and articulate.

You may feel compelled to write a lot about one assignment/experience and not as much about another. This is fine. You may find, too, that you are particularly fond of one of your classmate's work and not too fond of another's. This topic is fine too—as long as you explain. You may also find that you have determined the time in which you are most creative. Writings on this topic are also appropriate. You will more than likely notice likes, dislikes, and frustrations associated with new methods. These writings are also fine. Because of your busy schedules, sometimes you will find that you are not able to write during a particular week. This is fine as long as you make up for it the following week. Write about topics that you want to write about. All papers will be double-spaced and stapled. Use a size 12pt. font. Journals are due at or before class time on Dec.2<sup>nd</sup>. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

Other thoughts for the journal but not limited to:

- Movements/themes
- Use of Space, Levels, Direction,
- Choreographer's intentions
- Success or failure of the choreographer's intentions
- Political/Commercial/Artistic nature
- Inspired thoughts/memories

Observe appropriate rules of punctuation, grammar, spelling, and proper use of works cited as in MLA Handbook

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**Important Dates for MW 9:00AM-10:20AM**

- September 5 (Mon) Labor Day (no class)
- October 10-12 (Mon/Wed) Mid term
- November 11 (Fri) Veterans Day (no class)
- November 23– Thanksgiving (no class)
- December 2(Fri) – Journal Due
- December 5 (Mon) – Final Choreographic Project
- December 7 (Wed) - Final Choreographic Project

**“The Golden Rule”**

Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in the Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida’s Student Handbook (<http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/>). As a UCF student, you are held responsible for knowing what is listed in “The Golden Rule” handbook.

*Syllabus for DAA 3004L, Dance Studio – Page 2 of 2*

**UCF Creed**

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

**Integrity**

I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

**Scholarship**

I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

**Community**

I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

**Creativity**

I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

**Excellence**

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.