

Course Syllabus

Course Information

DANC 2336.001 Beginning Tap Dance/ Dance Technique Spring 2017 3 Credits
Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm JO 1.216

Professor Contact Information

Misty Owens

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Office Hours: Thursday 9:00am – 10:00am or by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This course is designed to build the fundamental skills of American tap dance. Students will learn and refine the underlying foundations of tap dance techniques and terminology and continue to develop a greater understanding of both classic and rhythm tap dance. While learning to achieve greater clarity of sound and development of enhanced dynamics, tone and shading, students will gain a greater awareness of the range of steps and sounds within tap dance technique. Students will develop ankle and knee flexibility, improved overall bodily coordination, and a greater understanding of musicality in relationship to the rhythms. Students are encouraged to explore their unique individuality through tap combinations while gaining confidence and attempting new challenges.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Students will learn historical and contemporary rhythm tap dance techniques within the context of the stylistic genre and historical lineage.
- Students will articulate greater flexibility and strength in the lower leg and entire body enhancing their performance of the given tap dance material.
- Students will, through performance and observations of performance, develop concepts of tap dance movements, qualitative changes in sounds, greater use of musicality and a variety of choreographic structures.
- Students will foster the development of the tap dance performer through awareness of steps, rhythms, tone and qualitative shading.
- Students will increase the ability to define and demonstrate strength, balance and range of sounds, through class participation in warm-ups, across the floor activities, and center combinations.
- Students will develop musicality, dynamics, clarity and articulation in tap combinations.

Required Textbooks and Materials

None

Suggested Course Materials

None

Assignments & Academic Calendar

All class meetings will consist of dance technique class only except for the following dates of school closure. Assignment due dates included.

Tues. January 10 – First day of classes. Review Syllabus

Tues. Feb. 21 – First performance analysis or program/ticket due

Mon. March 13 – Sat. March 18 - Spring break. No classes

Thurs April 20- Sat April 22 @ 7:30pm UT Dallas Dance Ensemble Concert – University Theater. Required.

Tues. April 25 – Second performance analysis or program /ticket due

Thurs. April 27 - Last Day of class

Grading Policy

Grade Value

- 20% Attendance
- 30% Participation
- 20% Performance attendance and written analysis
- 20% Skills and Vocabulary
- 10% Final project

Grading for Papers and Critiques

Papers on average will be no more than two type written pages. Late papers may be accepted. Three points will be deducted for each class period the paper is late. All assignments and participation grades begin with a grade of 95%. Points are either added or deducted

depending on the quality of the work

Grade Scale

A+ 100- 98	B+ 89 – 88	C+ 79 – 78	D+ 69 – 68	F 59 & below
A 97 – 93	B 87 – 83	C 77 – 73	D 67 – 63	
A- 92 - 90	B- 82 – 80	C- 72 – 70	D- 62 – 60	

A+ will only be awarded for regular class requirements. Extra credit assignments do not count towards an A+.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory. You will be given two absences that will not count against you, and any thereafter will be 3 points off starting at 100 for each missed class. If you arrive after roll has been taken it is **your responsibility** to remind the instructor you attended class that day. Failure to do so could result in an absence recorded and applied for that day. You will be considered late if you arrive after the warm up has begun and receive a ½ point deduction from your attendance points. A ½ point will be deducted every fifteen minutes thereafter until you arrive for class. You may not physically participate without the instructor's permission if you arrive more than fifteen minutes after the class has begun which may affect your participation grade. Classes may be made up, please speak to the instructor for various options. A total of 4 excused absences may be made up with the instructor's approval. Students making up absences in approved dance classes must turn in documentation that is dated and signed by the instructor teaching the class. All classes must be made up before the last two weeks of classes. If you were not able to participate in the class, you must write a one-page paper describing what you observed and giving comparisons between your class and the make-up class.

- **All classes must be made up before the last two weeks of the semester - no exceptions.**
- **Please note that unexcused absences, excused absences that are not made-up, and being tardy will also impact your participation grade.**

Participation is graded on your level of participation in the class learning the material given, effort and execution, preparedness for class (including proper attire), and your own personal growth. **Each class has a value of 3 points awarded daily by attending class and fulfilling the preceding requirements.** Points may be deducted if any of these requirements is unfulfilled.

Analysis: You are required to see two live dance productions and write a critique for at least one production and submit a ticket and program for the second. All performances must be dance concerts approved by the instructor. Critiques or the ticket/program will be due on **Tues. Feb. 21** and **Tues. April 25**. The critiques must include detailed descriptions of no more than two dance pieces from the program you attended. If you do not choose the first or last piece of the program to describe, you must also include a brief summary of those pieces. Three points will be deducted for the omission of each.

Concert attendance: You are required to see two live dance productions and write a critique for at least one production and submit a ticket and program for the second. Attendance at the **Thurs April 20- Sat April 22 @ 7:30pm** UT Dallas Dance Ensemble Concert – University Theater is Required and can be counted as one of your dance performances.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be received by attending additional dance performances. You may receive 1 point by just turning in a ticket and program or up to 3 if accompanied by a critique. The credit will be added to the final total of points accrued for the course at the end of the semester. Students may complete no more than two extra credit assignments - accepted up to the last two weeks of the semester.

When writing the critique include these points:

1. Did it tell a story, show a particular emotion, or make you feel a certain way?
After each one of these questions, ask yourself why and then explain.
2. What was the music? List the title and composer. Did the choreography go with the music? How?
3. Did you like it? What made you like it or dislike it?
4. What was the movement like? What did the dancers do through the movement to help you come to conclusions from the previous questions?
5. How did the sets, costuming and lighting affect the piece?
6. Give the title and choreographer of the piece selected.

Write the critique assuming that I did not see the concert pieces and would understand what it was about from your description. Up to 15 points will be deducted for the omission of each point mentioned above.

Skills and Vocabulary

You will be expected to know the definition and how to execute specific movements given in technique class at a Beginning level of tap dance technique. You may be tested verbally, physically and on paper. Assessments of skills will be taken during each technique class.

Final Project

The final project will be announced at a later time. Students will be graded on the ability to execute movement with both technical and performance proficiency.

General Class Etiquette and Attire

Minimal jewelry.

Hair should be pulled up and away from face and neck.

No chewing gum.

Closed lid containers with water only.

No sitting down during class.

No talking while dancing or during demonstrations of exercises.

Mute or silence cell phones.

Class Attire

Attire

- Students are required to wear dance or workout clothing as well as tap shoes in each class. Loose fitting street clothes are not appropriate. Acceptable attire would be leggings, leotards, bike shorts, fitness tops, jazz pants and t-shirts.
- Flat Tap dance shoes are required for this course.

Sandy's Dancewear on Plano Rd is a local resource for dancewear shoes and clothing.

Points may be deducted from your daily grade for inappropriate attire or etiquette.

Field Trip Policies

There are no field trips for this class. All dance concerts are attended on their own time. Concerts attended are chosen by the student.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.