

COURSE NUMBER: DCE 133-01

COURSE TITLE: Beginning Tap Dance

CREDITS: 1.0

PREREQUISITES: None

FOR WHOM PLANNED: For dance majors, minors, theater majors and non-majors with no significant tap dance experience

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Caitlin Spencer

Office: 220G, Dance Building (HHP)

Phone: 334-4064

Office Hrs: By appointment

Email: acspence@uncg.edu

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to technique and historical context of traditional and contemporary tap dance forms. (Fall)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

A. Demonstrate technique appropriate for beginning level tap dance:

1. Anticipate the beat when required.
2. Move on the beat when required.
3. Fulfill the time/counts given for each part of the movement.
4. Maintain energy/endurance throughout each combination and a full class.
5. Demonstrate dynamic alignment as appropriate to exercises/combinations in the class.
6. Show appropriate use of the body as called for in an exercise/combination.
7. Show command of skills involving initiation of movement.
8. Show command of skills involving weight shift.
9. Demonstrate attributes of/qualities in movement as specified.
10. Demonstrate clarity of musical accent/emphasis in movement combinations.
11. Demonstrate clarity of spatial direction in simple movement combinations.
12. Perform set movement with full engagement.
13. Respond spontaneously and imaginatively to improvisational prompts, with full engagement and some degree of invention.
14. Demonstrate appropriate studio/class practices as specified.

B. Demonstrate awareness of historical context/development of tap dance

TEACHING METHODS AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR ACHIEVING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Teaching Methods: To enable student achievement of the learning goals, I will

- Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement exercises and combinations designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of learning goals 1-11;
- Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals 1-12, and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving all learning goals as appropriate*;
- Provide a verbal feedback at midterm during one-on-one conferences and at the end of the semester on the Tap Dance Technique Feedback sheet; provide written feedback on your

written assignment.

- Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts;
- Provide opportunities for you to assess your own progress toward the actual achievement of the learning goals;

* Not every student will receive individual feedback during each class, but all students will receive individual feedback regularly throughout the course of the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS

A. The primary and ongoing assignment for this course is to participate fully, which means that you consistently:

Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components;

Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that I provide in class;

Learn the movement material as quickly and as thoroughly as you can through observation and practice;

Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so;

B. In addition, you will be expected to write a reflective response to an assigned reading about the history/development of tap dance.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

I will assess your progress toward and your actual achievement of the learning goals through:

A. Tap Dance Technique Feedback Sheet: 90% of your final grade will be based on your score.

B. Rubric for assessing response paper will be posted in Blackboard and discussed in class: 10% of your grade.

In calculating the achievement component of the final grade, your mastery of the learning goals and completion of assignments will be assessed to produce a final score that is aligned with grades as follows:

93-100	A
90-92	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
60-62	D-
below 60	F

Note: The relationship between attendance and your final letter grade is as follows: 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each absence incurred over the maximum absences allowed for this class (3). See complete attendance policy below.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS/REFERENCES: Posted on Blackboard.

Hill, C.V. (2002). Tap dance in America: A very short history.

<http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/dan/hines/history.html>.

(accessed 10-22-08). Note: Although this article is six years old, it is the most current and comprehensive one about the topic that is a length appropriate for the assignment.

TOPICAL OUTLINE: N/A

Each class will consist of warm-up exercises and combinations designed to enable your achievement of learning goals will remain fairly consistent over the course of the semester. Other exercises and combinations will be taught throughout the semester with various length, speed, and rhythmic and qualitative complexity. You will also view archival and contemporary video footage as it supports your learning and understanding of the art form of tap dance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: Students in all courses are expected to follow the UNCG Academic Integrity policy (<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>). Please note that the following are a violation of the academic integrity policy: Cheating; failure to cite references; submitting, as one's own, work done by or copied from another; falsification; and facilitating academic dishonesty by another person.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate to get credit for the course. You are permitted **three absences without penalty**. 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each absence incurred over the maximum absences allowed for this class. Sitting and watching a class does not count as participation in the studio portion of class. Two tardies equals one absence. A tardy constitutes being more than ten minutes late to class or leaving early. **Put simply, be on time.** No one part of the class is more or less important or valuable to you than another.

Note: After your sixth absence, your name will be submitted as “unsatisfactory” to Student Academic Services, and you will be withdrawn from the course. If this happens after the deadline to drop without penalty, your grade for the course will be WF – Withdrawn failing.

If you arrive more than ten minutes late, please sit down and watch (and remember the policy above!). If you are less than 10 minutes late, please quietly join the class and begin working immediately, with as little distraction as possible.

When injured or ill (but not contagious), you may still be counted as present if you attend class and record observations*. However, this will NOT be counted as a day of participation in the class. Again, the Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate. Students must dance in 24 out of the 30 meetings in classes that meet twice a week. Students who do not meet the participation requirement for any reason will need to repeat the course.

Observations: During observation, take notes and actively observe class. Notes should go beyond just listing what the combinations were. You must complete the following: Your role as an observer is both teacher and student. Make correlations between what you see, what you hear, and what you personally experience when you are physically participating in the class. How does observing class further enrich your kinesthetic and cognitive understanding of tap dance?

Special Cases: Situations such as serious illness, long-term injury, or family emergencies may be dealt with on an individual basis. In some cases, students will be given an Incomplete to be made up within the following semesters (as applicable for the technique level). In other cases, I may recommend withdrawal from the course. Please speak with me directly as soon as possible regarding any special circumstance you any experience.

Make Up Class: Make-up options may be made available on Blackboard under "Course Documents." Attendance at special Tap related events with accompanying reflective writing documents may count towards make-up of missed classes. *Students must have this option approved in advance with instructor.*

FINAL EXAMINATION: [Tuesday, December 15, 2009 from 3:30–6:30P.M.](#)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/STUDIO ETIQUETTE

Be respectful of your fellow classmates, the instructor, and our art. I encourage you to ask relevant questions during class. Please, no excessive chatting, socializing, or other distracting behavior. For your own safety and enjoyment of this class, no eating or gum-chewing is allowed in the studio. Please **turn off or silence all cellphones**. Additionally, here are some important notes about your role in the **tap class community**:

The space in which we dance is created by the collective energy of all dancers in the room, the music/musicians present, the teaching that takes place and the space itself.

Your contribution to a positive, creative environment includes:

- 1 - Staying engaged. Don't check out or give up. Try your best every class.
- 2 - Respecting all dancers. Each individual has different and unique things to offer. Don't miss out on anyone, including yourself! Important to note: do not have conversations or dialogue while others are dancing. This can be distracting or break concentration, and it is disrespectful. You also learn by actively observing others. You should expect this respect for yourself when you dance.
- 3 - Hear Here! By keeping your taps quiet when I am demonstrating technique or explaining concepts unless it is made clear that you should participate with me. This helps all students to hear in a room that does not have the best acoustics and it maximizes your opportunity to learn proper technique. I will give you time in class to explore, test, practice, try, play and experiment with all material I demonstrate.

Shoes: Purchased at student's choice of vendor. Discount Dance Supply and Carolina Dancewear (New Garden Road off Bryan Blvd.) carry good selections. Bloc, Capezio, Leo are all fine choices. No split-sole or jazz/tap shoes. Tap shoes take time to be "broken in," so please account for this if you find new shoes to be stiff. You do not want them to be too big --- this can cause blisters and will require extra effort on your part to execute your dancing.