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DANC 198A.08: Dance Forms - Tap

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The University of Montana College of Art and Media
Dance Forms: 74056 Tap DANC 108A 08
Thursdays 1pm – 1:50 pm

SYLLABUS: FALL SEMESTER 2022
AUGUST 29th-DECEMBER 16th

Meagen Hensley-Shapiro, Instructor
Telephone: 406.241.7508
E-mail: Meagen.hensley@gmail.com
Class Location: PARTV Building – Montana Theatre

Land Acknowledgement:

The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. We honor the path that they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

Course Description

This is a beginning level course introducing you to basic tap steps, concepts in rhythm, and an introduction to the different forms of Tap, focusing heavily on Musical Theatre Tap. Students will develop the physical ability to communicate through movement in an expressive and artistic way. A clearly defined structure allows learning to take place in the context of safe dance practice.

Class Requirements

- Properly fitting Tap shoes. Shoes may be purchased online. I recommend www.dance4less.com, Ebay, Amazon or Capezio. Look for used shoes, there are great deals out there. Be sure to check sizing charts, confirm shipping dates and review return policies. Please have shoes by the second class, at the latest.
- Your dance attire should not restrict or hide your movement. Wear comfortable, moveable and breathable clothing. Tap dance is a technical art form that requires attention to body placement. Please wear clothes that allow for your body to be seen and corrected.
- Personal hygiene is very important. You will be dancing next to people for an hour each class. Wear deodorant that works for you. Too much cologne or not enough deodorant can be over-whelming to your class mates. Masks will be required in class and social distancing will be practiced at all times.
- Please do not wear jewelry that can be easily pulled off, can fall off or makes its own noise.

Learning Objectives

- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the history of Tap dance in America
- Build a foundation of Tap technique
- Develop an awareness of tone and be able to understand tap dance terminology
- Gain a good sense of posture though line through body, arms and head
- Understanding of rhythms and its development
- Appreciation of varying musical styles and their interpretation
- Awareness of space, audience and sense of performance
- Encourage a sense of self-expression
- Encourage creative use of rhythm and movement
- Promote self confidence in the performance of a solo.

Expectations

- ✓ Class begins promptly at 1pm. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will not be permitted to take class (for etiquette and safety purposes) and will instead observe and take notes. Class is scheduled to end at 1:50pm.
- ✓ Students are required to remain in class until it concludes. Consistent tardiness or early departure from class will result in the lowering of one's grade.
- ✓ To avoid injury, please come to class prepared to move at the start of class. (If you know you need extra time/space to stay safe, arrive early.) Please notify the instructor of any injury (current or past) that may affect your full performance in class.
- ✓ Should a student observe class, it is expected that the student watch the class and dutifully apply what is being taught and discussed to her/his own improvement in class. This observation should result in a set of notes that will be submitted to the instructor at the conclusion of the class observed.
- ✓ While observing class, students are required to be mindful and quiet as to not detract from the teaching and performance efficacy of the teacher, classmates and accompanist. More than two observations equal an absence.

Grading Policy

Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You will not gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to learn movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate or reading a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances may arise, students are granted two absences. Students may also make up two absences by participating in (if appropriate) or watching, and writing a one-page observation of another dance class. AFTER A STUDENT HAS USED HER/HIS TWO ABSENCES AND TWO MAKEUPS, THE STUDENT WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A LETTER GRADE FOR EVERY ABSENCE FOLLOWING.

Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason, grading is not assigned a point breakdown. To earn an "A" a student must:

- Consistently reach above and beyond average participation
- Demonstrate proficiency in the areas listed within the "Learning Objectives" of this syllabus at least 65% of the time in class.
- Have an energetic, attentive and inquisitive attitude.
- Progress over the semester.
- And of course, fulfill all attendance requirements.

Students may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if there are exceptional circumstances, which have been discussed with the instructor.

Performance Attendance & Assignments

Students are required to attend three artistic events during the fall term. Please see the UM College of Art and Media website for information on fall productions with dance and theatre.

You will have two kinds of assignments, to be completed by the end of the semester:

- a) Four (4) Dance Performances which are listed on the Dance Class Requirements
- b) ONE (1) Tap dance routine. 1 minute or your own tap choreography. Music of your choosing, but it must support your showing the steps learned in class, a sense of rhythm and your musicality.

Grading: Your grade for the semester will be based largely on your attendance.:

Required Attendance Dance Performances (2) 40

End of the Semester Tap Routine (1) 50

Email Correspondance 30

Attendance (13 classes) 130

Total Points 250 points

From UM President Seth Bodnar:

The wide availability of safe, effective vaccines to combat COVID-19 means that we are able to return to full in-person learning this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated if you haven't done so already. Vaccination provides the best means of protecting yourself – and others in our UM Family – from the risk of COVID-19.

NO street shoes are allowed in the dance studio at any time, even carried in-hand. Anyone entering the studio must remove their street shoes **BEFORE** entering and leave them outside the studio. The only shoes permitted in studios are those that have been purchased for the exclusive use of dance in dance studios (with the exclusion of tap shoes, hard-shoe clogs, and flamenco shoes. These should never be worn on Marley floors).

Individuals concerned about theft should check out a locker for their shoes and other belongings. NO food or drinks (except water in closed bottles) are permitted in the dance studios or theatres.

NOTE: Lockers are available for any student. The School of Theatre & Dance recommends that students do not leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, dance studios, or theatres as thefts frequently occur. Lockers may be checked out through the School: schedule TBA.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>.

STATEMENT OF EMPOWERMENT

The School of Theatre and Dance recognizes that theatre and performance content and processes can provoke; therefore, during the course of a class or rehearsal, students can choose to remove themselves from activities should they feel a threat to their well-being. Please communicate with your instructor and/or stage manager as soon as you can, either prior to or soon after leaving.

WELLNESS

Personal considerations such as health, wellness, and/or other issues can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the CHC Health Portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Life-line: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text Line: text MT to 741-741. For University of Montana Financial Aid, call 406-243-5373 or email faid@mso.umt.edu. Please stay in communication with your faculty advisor and know that we are here to help. You can call in anytime to our office hours (posted on office doors) or email us to set up an appointment.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.