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## DANC 325.01: Spirit Squad

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# **Syllabus for DANC 325 (Dance Team/Spirit Squad)**

## **Section 01**

**Stacey Kahler**  
**2 Credits**

### **Description:**

This course, offered every semester, is open to students who auditioned the previous spring for the UM Cheer Squad or Dance Team. Students spend the semester practicing three or four times a week, cheering at home volleyball and soccer games, home and away football and basketball games. They also spend time representing The University of Montana at appearances around the state of Montana. Students are involved in the choreography of dances, cheers, and routines throughout the season.

Students spend approximately 8 hours a week in practice, over a period of 21 weeks fall semester and 10-12 weeks in the spring. Students may sign up for two credits each semester.

### **Grading Criteria:**

The cheer squad and dance team coaches grade their respective team. Grades are based on attendance at practices, games, fundraisers, appearances and attitude. Absences from practices, games, fundraisers or appearances must be approved in writing by the coach and program director 30 days prior to event missed.

Students are allowed to miss five practices and no games before losing their spot on the squad and receiving a fail grade in the class.

Students will be deducted 3 points for:

- Unexcused absences from games, practices, fundraisers or appearances

Students will be deducted 2 points for:

- Tardies without a phone call
- Missing games or practices without written approval

Students will be deducted 1 point for:

- Excused absences from games, practices, fundraisers or appearances
- Tardies with a phone call
- Not being in full practice attire by the time warm-ups start
- Wearing incorrect practice attire
- Not being taped up by the time practice or game warm-ups begin
- Not bringing tape/utility bag
- Cell phones going off at practice, fundraisers, or appearances
- Not in warm-ups or uniforms upon arrival to game
- Gum chewing at practices, games, fundraisers or appearances

A portion of the student's grades will also be based on their attitude and willingness to learn and excel through each semester. The obvious goal for the students is to be better cheerleaders and dancers at the end of each semester. They will also be graded on their willingness to be a team player.

Students have the opportunity to earn extra credit by doing extra appearances or fundraisers (ones that are not mandatory), extra weight training and attending extra dance/gymnastics classes.

### **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 [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.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/theatredance/about/handbook>.

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.

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 Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.