

Spring 1-2016

DANC 108.01: Dance Forms - Salsa

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**The University of Montana
Theater & Dance
Dance Forms: Salsa
DANC 108.01
Wednesdays 1:10 – 2:00 pm**

SYLLABUS: SPRING SEMESTER 2016

-  Jennifer Corbin, instructor
 Office: The Downtown Dance Collective
 Telephone: 239-1479
 E-mail: Jennifer.corbin@mso.umt.edu
 Office hours: By Appointment
 Class Location: The Downtown Dance Collective
121 West Main Street

1) Required materials

- Wear a comfortable pair of shoes, with clean soles and leather or rubber bottoms. Shoes will a little “slide” work best. Dance shoes are not necessary.
- Wear comfortable – moveable and breathable -- clothing because we *will* turn up the heat with those Latin beats. ☺
- Speaking of heat, personal hygiene is **very** important. You will be “hugging” people for an hour or more each class, so pay attention to body odor. Too much cologne or not enough deodorant can be overwhelming for your partner. Also watch those onion-laden lunches.
- Access to an internet music service or YouTube, to review music styles for class. I will make music files available to those students who are interested.

2) Course description

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the multicultural influences inherent in Latin Music and Dance, by demonstrating the various styles of Latin music and dance that incorporate African and Caribbean influences. You will also learn to **move** to the contemporary music and dance of Latin America, specifically those of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Colombia. A large part of music and dance in Latin culture is shared through community gatherings, which you will be witness to through outside social dance opportunities.

3) Objectives

- Learn the correct body alignment/posture/technique for partnering.
- Learn to connect to your dance partner.
- Develop a kinesthetic awareness of your own physical abilities.
- Develop a sense of musicality and rhythm.
- Recognize the various Latin rhythms, the origins of those rhythms, and the movements that accompany those rhythms.
- Perform with proficiency and clarity beginning Latin dance movements and combinations.
- Familiarize yourself with the local Latin music and dance communities of Western Montana.

3) Recommendations and Expectations

Readings: 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>.

Safety: Inherent risk is involved in many Theatre & Dance classes because these classes 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.

4) Conduct

From the vice president for student affairs: "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."

5) **For students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me or Disability Services for Students (DSS). The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and DSS.

“Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

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

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Dance in the News Shares (1) | 20 |
| Social Dance Events (2) | 30 |
| <u>Attendance (15 classes – 2 holidays)</u> | <u>150</u> |
| Total Points | 200 points |

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

- a) Attend TWO (2) social dance events.
- b) ONE (1) Dance in the News shares.

b) Social Dance Opportunities:

Missoula is an amazing town for social dance. Although you are registered in a Latin dance course, I will give credit for attending social dance events that are not necessarily Latin. At the beginning of every month, however, we host Latin Dance Nights at The Downtown Dance Collective. This evening is an excellent opportunity for you to try out your new-found Latin dance kicks, like salsa, merengue, bachata, cha-cha-cha, rumba, and Latin hip-hop. In addition to the Missoula events, we have communities in Butte, Kalispell, Bozeman, and Helena, all of which host dance events. I will keep you updated on these events and other “happenings” around town that are great dance opportunities.

c) Dance in the News:

Recognizing the significance of social dance in our culture is another objective of this course. So I would like you to share are “news” or information you may come across regarding the social – read, community building – benefits of social dance. I will talk more about this “assignment” as we move through the course.

Fall 2015 Schedule

| Date: | Topic: | Community Events: |
|--------------|---|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction. What is Salsa? Latin posture, embrace. | |
| 1/27/2016 | WARM-UP: SALSA (Cuba and Puerto Rico) | |
| Week 2 | The core moves of salsa; Dile que no and open break. | Latin Dance Nights – Saturday, February 6, 2016 |
| 2/3/2016 | WARM-UP: SALSA (Cuba and Colombia) | Downtown Dance Collective |
| Week 3 | Core moves and turn technique. | |
| 2/10/2016 | SALSA and MERENGUE (Puerto Rico and D.R.) | |
| Week 4 | Preparation and Momentum. Keep the slot moving. | |
| 1/17/2016 | SALSA and MERENGUE (Puerto Rico and D.R.) | |
| Week 5 | Turning on both sides. Sneaky turns. Styling for both. | |
| 2/24/2016 | SALSA and BACHATA (Cuba and D.R.) | |
| Week 6 | Close embrace. Refining embrace. Moving out of the slot. | Latin Dance Nights – Saturday, March 5, 2016 |
| 3/2/2016 | SALSA and BACHATA (Cuba and D.R.) | Downtown Dance Collective |
| Week 7 | Bachata turns. Salsa and Bachata relationship. Zydeco two-step? What? | |
| 3/9/2016 | SALSA and BACHATA (Puerto Rico and D.R.) | |
| Week 8 | Let's keep it smooth and JUICY. Musicality and that Latin Rhythm.. | |
| 3/16/2016 | SALSA and Cha-Cha-Cha (Cuba and Puerto Rico) | |
| Week 9 | The beauty of the pause. Pulling it in. Tandem turns. | |
| 3/23/2016 | SALSA and Cha-Cha-Cha (Cuba and Puerto Rico) | |
| Week 10 | Free-style opportunities. Turn up the heat! Conga! | LATIN DANCE NIGHTS - Saturday, April 2, 2016 |
| 3/30/2016 | SALSA, RUMBA, and SAMBA (Colombia and Brazil) | Downtown Dance Collective |
| Week 11 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!!!! | |
| 4/6/2016 | | |
| Week 12 | Styling for lead and follow. Owning it! Leading the flash. | |
| 4/13/2016 | SALSA (Colombia and Puerto Rico) | |
| Week 13 | More styling. Presentation and improvisation. | |
| 4/20/2016 | SALSA (Columbia and Puerto Rico) | |

Fall 2015 Schedule

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Topic:</u> | <u>Community Events:</u> |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Week 14 | Casino Rueda | |
| 4/27/2016 | SALSA (Cuba) | |
| | | |
| Week 15 | Casino Rueda | LATIN DANCE NIGHTS – May 7, 2016 |
| 5/4/2016 | SALSA (Cuba) | Downtown Dance Collective |
| | | |
| | | |
| FINALS WEEK | Optional Latin Lunch Hour at University Center | |
| | Everything Latin | |