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DANC 108.03: Dance Forms - Tango

Lori J. Mitchell

University of Montana - Missoula, lori.mitchell@mso.umt.edu

Patrick J. Marsolek

University of Montana, Missoula

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**School of Theatre & Dance,
Dance Forms: Tango
DANC 108 section 3
Tuesdays 2:40-3:30
1 credit
Downtown Dance Collective 121 W. Main st.**

Instructors: Lori Mitchell & Patrick Marsolek
Lori.mitchell@umontana.edu
info@patrickmarsolek.com
office hours by appointment

Spring 2016 Syllabus

Course Description

Tango is a social dance that has its origins in Argentina and Uruguay at the turn of the last century. It is now danced all over the world, from Buenos Aires to Prague, Paris to Missoula Montana. In class we will discuss some of the history of the dance and how the culture of its origins and spread are reflected in the dance we do now. The majority of class time will be spent learning to dance the Tango focusing on the 5 basic elements of tango:

1. personal body awareness,
2. connection to a partner,
3. dancing in a community,
4. moving to music
5. vocabulary.

Objectives

- Learn the correct body alignment/posture/technique for tango.
- Learn to connect to a dance partner.
- practice tango “floor craft” to dance well in community
- Develop a sense of musicality and rhythm.
- Recognize the various tango rhythms and the movements that accompany those rhythms.
- Perform with proficiency and clarity beginning tango dance movements and combinations.
- Familiarize yourself with the local tango dance communities of Western Montana.

There will rarely be homework given, but you are expected to attend every class, engage in exercises, show that you are giving effort, and exhibit improvement over the semester

Tardiness

Class begins promptly at 2:40pm. Do not be late. We will warm up for class together at that time. If you are more than 10 minutes late it is counted as a tardy – two tardies = 1 absence. If you are late and we have started class, please remember to tell me after class that you were there. If you do not, you will remain marked as absent.

Grading: Your grade for the semester will be based ***largely*** on your attendance, plus four assignments :

Attendance (14 classes)	140
Attend 2 Tango Social Events	30
Attend 2 dance productions	30
Total Points	200 points

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

a) **Attend two (2) Social Tango Dance Opportunities :**

Missoula is an amazing town for social dance. Although you are registered in a Tango dance course, we will give credit for attending social dance events that are not necessarily Tango. There are many tango opportunities here in Missoula: The second Saturday of every month we host Tango Nights at The Downtown Dance Collective. We host another tango dance at the Lobby of the Florence Hotel every fourth Saturday. Every Friday there is a tango practica held at 210 Higgins. These are excellent opportunities to try out your new-found tango steps and to socialize with the community. In addition to the Missoula events, there are communities in Bozeman, and Helena which host dance events. We will keep you updated on these events and other “happenings” around town that are great dance opportunities.

b) **Attend two (2) Dance Production**

General course requirements state that you must see 2 dance ` during this semester. Bring a ticket stub or program to class to prove that you attended the performance. If there is a conflict in your personal or school life that prevents you from seeing a performance, alternatives may be decided upon but only if I know about the conflict in advance. See the dance technique class requirements page for a list of shows you are required to see.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Students may earn extra credit by attending additional performances or taking additional classes. If you are seeing an additional show, you need only to bring the program to the instructor. Please refer to the dance technique class requirement sheet for additional show information. If attending an additional class, have teacher sign a slip of paper that has the date, class type and teacher signature on it.

1) Required materials

- Wear a comfortable pair of shoes, with clean soles and leather or smooth soles so you can pivot in them. Dance shoes are not necessary.
- Wear comfortable – moveable and breathable – clothing.
- Personal hygiene is ***very*** important in any social dance. You will be working closely with your fellow dancer for an hour class, so pay attention to body odor. Too much cologne or not enough deodorant can be overwhelming for your partner. Please be considerate.

School of Theater and Dance Handbook

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html>.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

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 with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class do so at their own risk. If you do have an injury or there is any reason you believe you cannot fully participate in class, please let Heidi Michaelson know about the issue immediately. 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/>

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/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

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.

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://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php."

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/dss/>.