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DANC 108A.02: Dance Forms - Tango

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**School of Theatre & Dance,
Dance Forms: Tango
DANC 108 section 3
Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30
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

Fall 2018 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 2:30pm. 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 the fourth Saturday of every month. Every Friday there is a tango practica. The details and locations of these events can be found at www.TangoMissoula.com. 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 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>.

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/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

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 Patrick Marsolek or Lori Mitchell 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://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA DANCE PROGRAM TECHNIQUE CLASS REQUIREMENTS *Autumn Semester 2018*

- I. **NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, DRINK OR CELL PHONES** ALLOWED IN STUDIOS. Students who do not wish to leave their shoes in the hall are encouraged to either rent a locker, or use the lower level labeled lockers in the hall for shoes during class.

- II. Many Dance Technique courses satisfy the General Education Expressive Arts Credit. To receive an Arts Credit, the student must enroll in the course for a traditional grade and receive a C or higher.

- III. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT THE FOLLOWING:**
 - A. **UM Dancers on Location: A Site-Specific Dance Concert**
September 29-30, 2018 @ 12noon, Mansfield Library Mall, FREE
(donations graciously accepted)
 - B. **Dance Up Close:** November 1-3 @ 7:30PM, November 3 @ 2PM
Masquer Theatre, Tickets available at the UM Arts Box Office in the PARTV
\$16
 - C. **Studio Works:** Friday December 7th (Fri) program I at 6:30pm; program II at 8:30pm; Open Space, Tickets \$5 *at the door*

Your instructor MAY require attendance at additional concerts (see below), or choose to offer students a chance to use attendance as make ups for absences. This is at the discretion of each instructor.

❖ Choose One by Colorado-based dancers, Lauren Beale and Brooke McNamara,

presented by Bare Bait Dance, September 14-15 8PM, September 15 @2PM and September 16 @ 6PM Open Space, tickets at the door, \$15

❖ Springboard by Bare Bait Dance, November 9-10 @8PM, November 11th @ 6PM, November 16-17th @8PM, November 18th @6PM Open Space, tickets at the door, \$15

Your instructor will require a written critique, quiz, or something else of her/his own choosing. You will need to give specific examples to support your opinions, so take notes either during or after the concerts. Regardless of your assignment, as you watch, it will be helpful to think about the following:

1. To which pieces did you experience a strong reaction?
2. Regarding the choreography of each piece:
 - a. What is the content, subject, meaning or movement idea?
 - b. How did the movement/style of the movement support (or detract) the choreographic message?
 - c. What is it about the movement/choreography/performance that inspired your reaction?
3. Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique.
4. Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets and sound score. Did they work with the choreography? Provide details to support your opinions.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICY–DANCE TECHNIQUE

Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, watching a film of the dance or reading about it in a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss.

So, the Dance Faculty EXPECTS STUDENTS TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, students are permitted two absences. Students may also make up two classes. Make-ups are determined by the instructor and may include: watching and writing a one-page observation of another dance class that is either a more advanced level of the style the student is studying (or a different style), or by participating in another section of the same level and style of the class.

AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR TWO ABSENCES AND TWO MAKEUPS, YOU WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL ABSENCE.

GRADING: 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 we do not have a point breakdown, but rather general guidelines.

To receive an "A" you must:

- show signs of aptitude for dance technique
- have an energetic, attentive attitude
- progress over the semester
- be at the top level of the class
- and, of course, fulfill the attendance, critique, and exam requirements

You will receive an "F" if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an "F." Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+ and you will receive a "C+"). Students may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if there are exceptional circumstances, *that have been discussed with the instructor.*

NEW NOTE: LOCKER RENTALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE DANCE CLASSES. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOT LEAVE PERSONAL BELONGINGS UNATTENDED IN THE DRESSING ROOMS, HALLWAYS, OR DANCE STUDIOS, AS THEFTS FREQUENTLY OCCUR. LOCKERS MAY BE RENTED FOR \$10 /SEMESTER, OR \$15/TWO SEMESTERS. Lockers are available for assignment following the School of Theatre & Dance Major's Meeting on Tuesday August 28th (approximately 6:30PM), or on Friday August 31st with School of Theatre & Dance Work Study Student in PARTV 197 from 1-5PM. After this time, lockers may be rented through Administrative Associate III Erin McDaniel (erin.mcdaniel@umontana.edu; PARTV 196).