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Advanced Tap Technique

DN 410 Section 001

Spring 2014, Activity Performance or Studio

Stacy Alley

Office Hours and Contact Information

Class meets: MWF 10:00-10:50 am

Office Hours: by appointment only

My office is located at Rowand-Johnson 111

salley@as.ua.edu (the best way to contact me)

205-348-6247 (office phone)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): DN 210 and DN 310.

Or by permission of instructor

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

An advanced course focusing on tap dance language and the execution of advanced tap technique.

An advanced course focusing on tap dance language and the execution of advanced tap technique. Warm-up and across the floor exercises as well as combinations in a variety of styles will be taught.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To define the language and identify the advanced techniques of tap dance as a physical, recreational, and artistic experience.
2. To improve rhythm and tap improvisatory skills.
3. To identify and show creative expression through body movement.
4. To demonstrate generally improved physical awareness, endurance, balance, coordination and conditioning.
5. To become better prepared to work in the professional world of musical theatre and/or dance.

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.

Outline of Topics

- I. Two weeks of evaluation, review, etc.
- II. Eight weeks of technique
- III. Four weeks of musical theatre tap performance

Exams and Assignments

- 1. Class Participation:** You are graded on your own individual effort and improvement, more specifically on your preparedness, willingness to take risks, and by showing a consistent growth in the course objectives by applying yourself fully to each class.
- 2. Midterm exam:** A technique exam based on exercises that we've worked on each week of class and is graded on various components and criteria which will be explained to you prior to the exam.
- 3. Dance Concert attendance:** You must attend one of the two dance concerts offered this semester (Dance Alabama or ARDT) although I prefer that you attend both. We will discuss these during class and you will be

required to write a short critique.

4. **Final Exam/Performance:** Grading criteria is the same as the technique exams with the added element of performance.

Grading Policy

500 pts. total:

Class Participation: 100 pts.

Midterm exam: 100 pts.

Dance concert critique: 100 pts.

Final technique exam/performance: 200 pts.

Grading Scale:

100-95= A

94-90= A-

89-86= B+

85-82= B

81-79= B-

78-75= C+

74-71= C

70-68= C-

67-64= D+

63-60= D

59-57= D-

<57= F

PLEASE NOTE: In the “performance” grading process, you are not being compared to fellow classmates. You will be graded on an individual basis-- more specifically, on your preparedness, willingness to take risks, and improvement throughout the duration of the course.

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

It is extremely hard to make-up work missed in a technique dance class. However, if you must miss class on the day of an exam, you may make it up only if you have a written, legitimate excuse. It is your responsibility to schedule a make-up date with me within one week of missing exam/class.

Attendance Policy

This is a performance/participation course and attendance is mandatory! You are allowed to miss three classes after which your grade will be lowered **a letter grade** for each subsequent absence. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. Three tardies equal one absence and will also lower your grade.

Course Schedule

JANUARY

- 8 Intro/Go over syllabus
- 10 No class -- Stacy in NY
- 13 Review, access class collective
- 15 Technique exercises Grade 7
- 17 Technique exercise Grade 7 continued
- 20 MLK Day -- No class
- 22 Begin learning Combo #1
- 24 Combo #1, continue technique exercises
- 27 Combo #1, continue technique exercises
- 29 Continue advanced technique exercises
- 31 Improvisation

FEBRUARY

- 3 Technique exercise Grade 7/8 continued
- 5 Begin learning Combo #2
- 7 Technique/Combo #2
- 10 Technique/Combo #2
- 12 Watch tap movie clips/discuss choreographers
- 14 Technique/Combo #2
- 17 Continue "tricks", exercises
- 19 Grade 8 exercises
- 21 Grade 8
- 24 Grade 8/9/ *ARDT* Critique due
- 26 Grade 8/9
- 28 Grade 8/9

MARCH

- 3 Catch-up/review
- 5 Stacy at SETC -- sub TBA
- 7 Stacy at SETC -- sub TBA
- 10 Midterm Review
- 12 Midterm Review
- 14 Midterm -- Group #1
- 17 Midterm -- Group #2/ *Dance Alabama* Critique due
- 19 Midterm Evaluations -- Group #1
- 21 Midterm Evaluations -- Group #2
- 24 SPRING BREAK -- no class

- 26 SPRING BREAK -- no class
- 28 SPRING BREAK -- no class
- 31 Begin learning final combo

APRIL

- 2 Continue learning final combo, review technique exercises
- 4 Honors Day -- no class
- 7 Technique/Final combo
- 9 Technique/Final combo
- 11 Technique/Final combo
- 14 Review for final
- 16 Review for final
- 18 Final, Group #1
- 21 Final, Group #2
- 23 Final Evaluations, Group #1
- 25 Last day of classes -- Final Evaluations, Group #2

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

Attire

Comfortable, loose fitting yet not baggy clothing, appropriate supportive underclothes, and good tap shoes are required for this class. (Ladies are encouraged to have both flat and character taps). Points will be deducted from your participation grade for each day of class that you do not have tap shoes. Also, if you forget to bring shoes to class or fail to dress appropriately, a five-point deduction will be taken from your participation grade. (If you have any questions about what to buy, feel free to email or call me.)

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](http://www.nws.gov) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired.

Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.