

Tap 1

class: DAA 4930
location: Mon: G-15 Fri: CON G-11
time: Mon & Fri: 3:00 - 4:55
instructor: Andrew Cao
email: andrewcao@ufl.edu
phone: tbd
office: McCarty C 305
office hours: tbd

Course Overview:

This class is designed for those who are at the very beginning of their tap journey. Through an approach that emphasizes the tap fundamentals within a musical theatre framework, we will cover the necessary rhythms, sounds, techniques, and vocabulary that are the foundation of every good tap dancer's training. Though classes will be geared toward students pursuing a career in musical theatre, students of all pursuits will benefit from and enjoy this approach to tap dance.

Course Objectives:

- understand the fundamental tap steps, their rhythm, sound, and how to execute each with the proper technique
- learn the basic tap vocabulary and perform the proper step based on the terminology
- recognize tap steps when seen in choreography
- create your own rhythms and tap choreography
- begin understanding how to count and analyze the basic rhythmic structure of a song
- learn to pick up choreography quicker and represent yourself better in dance auditions

Dance Attire and Class Etiquette

SHOES



For women, the standard Broadway tap shoe is a 2.5" heel. For someone who is brand new to tap, however, it can be very challenging to learn the fundamentals in a heel. As such, beginners may want to wear a flat tap shoe for this class with the understanding that a heel will be expected of you by the time you reach Tap 2. Color is up to you.



For men, any flat tap shoe will do. Color is up to you.



CLOTHES: Form-fitting clothes are always best, as it's important we see the lines and shapes that your body is creating. Most important, however, is that your ankles and feet can move freely. No hats or large, dangly necklaces, watches, etc.

HAIR: You are welcome to wear your hair down if it doesn't cover your face. I would suggest always having a hair tie available.

FOOD: Although no food is allowed in the dance studios, I encourage you to bring healthy snacks to refuel before/after class and even during water breaks. Please no gum.

WATER: Hydration is key to your body performing the way you want it to. Invest in a re-useable water bottle to bring with you into the studio. Drink water all day long.

CELL PHONES: Please don't take any videos during class.

A note about Physical Touch...

The nature of our work as dancers involves an intimate relationship with our bodies and sometimes the bodies of dancers around us. Partnering, weight-sharing, and other forms of body-to-body contact will occasionally be a part of the material we're studying. In addition, although I will always attempt to offer corrections and guidance verbally, there may come a time when I need to use a physical correction to aid with positioning, alignment, or execution of a particular movement. If you are uncomfortable with ANY of the above, no problem. Feel free to speak with or email me so you and I can come up with a solution together.

Schedule

Class structure will be roughly the same every day. We'll usually begin with a warm-up, followed by various exercises and activities to help learn and perfect new tap steps. Classes will most often end with work on a choreographic combination.

Attendance

I have a strong opinion about punctuality and showing up to work. In the professional world, your reliability will play a big part in growing and sustaining your career.

ABSENCES: You will be granted 2 absences without penalty. You do not have to give me a reason or tell me ahead of time. For your 3rd absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final grade. 4th absence = 6 points will be deducted. 5th absence = 12 points will be deducted. Please note that these point deductions are cumulative. 6 or more absences will result in automatic failure of the class.

LATE: If you arrive late, please join in without distracting or disrupting the class already in progress. 3 late arrivals will count as 1 absence. Every additional late arrival after your 3rd will result in a deduction of 5 points. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will be counted as an absence and you will not be allowed to participate in class that day.

INJURY: If you are injured in class or nursing an injury that already happened, please let me know. You can observe class without penalty. However, in lieu of your physical participation, I will ask that you submit to me a minimum of 250 words on the choreographer or musical that we are studying that day. This paper is due BEFORE the start of the next class. If you do not submit the paper on time, you will be counted absent for the day.

Grading

Grading will be based on a 100 point scale.

80 points are based on your classroom participation. This includes things like your attendance, work ethic, focus, energy, preparation, attitude, motivation, etc.

20 points will come from your **FINAL ASSESSMENT and PRESENTATION**, which will take place during one of our last classes and has 3 parts. Each part will represent 1/3 of your total final exam grade.

PART 1: Identify Vocabulary. I will demonstrate various tap steps we learned throughout the semester. You will have to identify them and write them down.

PART 2: Create and demonstrate your own choreography. Your combination must be a minimum of four 8-counts long and contain all the steps from a checklist I will provide to you. You may choose to do this with or without music.

PART 3: Perform class choreography. I will choose a combination we learned in class and we will perform it in small groups, perhaps even individually. We'll decide which combination it will be and spend time in class reviewing the combination well in advance of the presentation date.

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00
C-	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

University Policies

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Current UF grading policies can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352 392 8565 <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>