

**University of Florida**  
**DAA 3524: TAP**  
**Spring 2015**  
**Class Meeting F 3:00-5:00pm**  
**Location: CON - G011**

**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Jenne Vermes

**Email:** annyk113@gmail.com

**Office Phone:** 954-803-0243 (Text preferred)

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

**Girls:** Oxford-style (flat) tap shoes, any color (No heeled taps or mary janes)

**Guys:** Black oxford-style tap shoes

These can be purchased at various dancewear stores in Jacksonville

- Arabesque Dance and Activewear - 2441 NW 43rd St Suite 3C Gainesville, Florida (352) 372-2003
- The Total Dancer - 7327 NW 4th Blvd., Gainesville, FL, 32607 (352) 226-8686
- Or online at [discountdance.com](http://discountdance.com) or [dancewearsolutions.com](http://dancewearsolutions.com)

**\*\*\*You need to have your tap shoes by the 2nd class: Jan 16, 2015!\*\*\***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Tap is a multi-level class that focuses on learning and refining basic technique as well as learning intermediate and advanced tap steps. Once students have mastered basic skills and steps, higher-level technique is then incorporated into the understanding and exploration of both tap choreography and history. Through exercises, choreography, and discussions, the course emphasizes not only specific technique, but also polishing one's own style and finesse. The course will involve significant physical study with additional work including viewing filmed or live dances, discussion, and writing projects.

**Course Outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of tap terminology and history
- Clearly execute beginning tap steps and movement phrases
- Discuss tap dance technique and history, both verbally and in written form
- Study and discuss historical dance figures and events
- Understand the role of tap dancing in the musical theatre career

## **Course Policies:**

### **Attendance:**

Class participation is a required component for this course. **You are expected to attend all classes.** Because this course only meets once per week, you are only allowed **ONE** unexcused absence for the semester; after one unexcused absence each additional absence will deduct a grade level (A becomes B). *It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to obtain the work you missed in the event of all absences.* The instructor will NOT spend class time reviewing material you missed due to an absence, make sure you meet with a peer to review before coming back to class. Excused absences are accepted with documentation and approval by the instructor and include the following: in the event of an illness, injury, approved UF Theatre event, approved professional development, or emergency with official documentation (i.e. doctor's note, religious holiday). It is at the instructor's discretion to drop you from the course or give you an earned F for excessive absences.

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

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### **Tardies/Leaving Early:**

It is strongly recommended that you arrive early to warm up and prepare yourself for class. Late arrivals deduct from your grade at the discretion of your instructor. Students arriving 5+ minutes late to class will need to discretely ask instructor permission to observe class. Likewise leaving early will also deduct from technical credit points. Three instances of arriving late or leaving early will equal one absence. DO NOT ASSUME THAT BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT A TARDY THAT I DID NOT NOTE THAT IT OCCURRED. It is your responsibility to keep track of your tardies, however, feel free to check in with the instructor if you are unsure of how many you have incurred.

### **Participation/ Effort:**

Participation is a demonstration of involvement and commitment to learning, a willingness to be on time and present in class, and contribution toward group discussions and activities. If a student is disruptive during class (talking, has a bad attitude, or simply not participating) he/ she will lose participation points. These points can be deducted at the teacher's discretion. 100% effort in EVERY class is the only way to ensure full points in this category.

### **Illness or Injury:**

Injured students are encouraged to observe and must report their observations to the instructor after class for partial credit (up to two times; any injury preventing you from participating fully for more than two classes needs to be addressed by a doctor and may result in the student being dropped from the class). Students who are severely ill or injured will need to speak with the instructor to make arrangements for make-up work to complete the course or drop the course. Students who are unable to complete 90% of class work fully will be asked to withdraw from the course.

**Attire:**

You MUST have your tap shoes by the 2nd class: January 16, 2015! If you know you will have trouble acquiring shoes by this date, please discuss this with me, your instructor and we can work something out.

Please wear athletic clothes and pants that are above your ankles. Shorts and capris would be best. Jeans, jean shorts, skirts and extremely baggy clothes ARE NOT acceptable for dance class. Hair MUST be pulled back off of your face. Keep jewelry to a minimum. No large earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.

AFTER THE FIRST WEEK IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEMBER THESE GUIDELINES. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL DEDUCT POINTS AT THEIR DISCRETION WITHOUT BRINGING IT TO YOUR ATTENTION.

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO ANY OF THE ABOVE POLICIES, PLEASE PLAN YOUR PERSONAL SCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS/FAILURE TO ACT.**

**Physical Contact:**

Dance is a physical art form, which often requires physical contact with others. At times, the instructor may give corrections for alignment or muscular awareness through gentle, physical contact, so as to help the student understand proper placement and avoid injury. It might also be used in an artistic way when dancing with other students. If you are uncomfortable with physical contact on any level, tell the instructor immediately. These concerns are perfectly acceptable and will in NO WAY affect a student's grade.

**Class Etiquette:**

RESPECT for others and the instructor is of the utmost importance. Be aware of appropriate times to talk or sit in class. Dance requires discipline and attention, both physically and mentally. There are specific requirements expected of both student and instructor to allow for a safe learning environment, allowing students to grow. By following the extra guidelines below, the class will run smoothly, allowing constructive criticism, questions and feedback between students and instructor, as well as connections between students and peers in the dance studio.

- Be prepared, use the restroom before class and bring a water bottle to class
- When waiting on the side or "marking" stay out of the dance space
- Practice new material at least three times before asking a question.
- If an injury occurs in class, notify the instructor right away. The instructor will assess the situation to keep the students' health the number one priority.
- No cell phone use in class (NO TEXTING). TURN THEM OFF! If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please notify the instructor before class begins.
- Corrections, criticism or commentary directed towards one student will be a shared experience for each student in the class. Although a correction may be directed to someone else, it might apply to you as well. Watch and listen to ALL corrections given in class and apply them accordingly.

## Assignments:

**Participation (each class):** Students are expected to participate with an attitude that reflects focus and 100% effort during every class. Students will be evaluated based on their individual progress in application of corrections, focus, articulation of material, musicality, memorization, ability to pick up movement material at a reasonable pace, and perform material with confidence. Individual development and progression of select skills will also be assessed.

**Tap Research Paper:** 2-3 page reflection and research paper discussing the current role and the status of the role of tap dancing in musical theatre today.

**Combo Tests (2):** Performing movement combinations in small groups, must display clear knowledge of steps and choreography

**Final Exam:** Choreography will be taught on the spot, and then students will perform this choreography at the end of the final exam time slot for an audience. Sometimes as a dancer in a company and/or show, you may be given very little notice before you're expected to perform, even something you only just learned. Do your best and have fun with it!

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE:**

*Week 1 (Jan 9) Introduction to the course, Syllabus, Tap Dance Technique*

*Week 2 (Jan 16) Technique, Combo 1*

*Week 3 (Jan 23) Technique, Combo 1*

*Week 4 (Jan 30) Technique, Combo 1*

*Week 5 (Feb 6) Technique, Combo 1*

*Week 6 (Feb 13) Technique, Combo 1*

*Week 7 (Feb 20) Technique, **Combo 1 test***

*Week 8 (Feb 27) **No class** – see instructor for Make-up class opportunity*

*Week 9 (Mar 6) **No Class – SPRING BREAK***

*Week 10 (Mar 13) Technique, Combo 2*

*Week 11 (Mar 20) Technique, Combo 2*

*Week 12 (Mar 27) Technique, Combo 2*

*Week 13 (Apr 3) Technique, Combo 2*

*Week 14 (Apr 10) Technique, Combo 2*

*Week 15 (Apr 17) Technique, **Combo 2 Test, Research paper due***

*Week 16 (Apr 24) **No class** – \*University Reading days\**

*Week 17 (Wednesday, Apr 29) 7:30-9:30am **FINAL EXAM***

**\*\*This schedule and any other information in this syllabus are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**

## **Grading/ Evaluation:**

Daily Participation/Attendance	500 points
Tap Present Report	200 points
Combo Tests	100 points (50 points each)
Final Exam	200 points
Total	<hr/> 1,000 points

**Grading Scale:**

A	900-1000	D	600-6999
B	800-899	F	599 and below
C	700-799		

\*All Assignments and projects are due on the requested due date in hard copy.

**Grades:** Grading will be in accord with the UF policy stated at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**Academic Integrity**

Students in this class must know, observe, and not compromise the principles of academic integrity. It is not permissible to cheat, to fabricate or falsify information, to submit the same academic work in more than one course without prior permission, to plagiarize, to receive unfair advantage, or to otherwise abuse accepted practices for handling and documenting information. The grade for this course includes the judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type. Violations or infractions will be reported to the Vice President for Student Affairs and may lead to failure of the course and other sanctions imposed by the College.

**In this course academic dishonesty also considers “plagiarism” of choreography.** Any strong similarities or direct copying of choreography from historical repertory, Youtube videos, music videos, and other published media without the written permission and/or rights from the original choreographer is considered plagiarized.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

**Academic Honor Code:**

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) 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.”

**Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:**

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.