

Beginning Tap Dance

DN 255-001 | Spring 2021 | 3 Credit Hours

Activity Performance or Studio

Mrs. Stacy Alley

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Mrs. Stacy Alley (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=slalley#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

Entrance into the Musical Theatre program or permission of instructor.

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

A course designed to introduce tap dance language and style while immersing the beginning/intermediate student in the execution of proper tap dance technique and performance. Warm-up and across the floor exercises as well as various combinations will be taught.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED (Required)

Course Objectives

See Student Learning Outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to define the language and identify the beginning/intermediate techniques of tap dance as a physical, recreational, and artistic experience.
2. Be able to demonstrate generally improved physical awareness, rhythm, endurance, balance, coordination and conditioning.
3. Be able to self-assess in order to examine their individual rate of progress and choose areas on which to work more.
4. Be better prepared to audition for musical theatre (and various tap dance opportunities) in the university setting and in the professional world.
5. Students will be successful in this course by:
 - Attending class regularly
 - Being fully present throughout the duration of the class
 - Arriving to class on time
 - Preparing for class appropriately
 - Upholding a high standard of professionalism with the instructor and peers
 - Contributing positively to sustaining a safe environment for all students to practice within the space
 - Respecting all practitioners in the space
 - Maintaining an open mind to the potential growth and development of skills from a different perspective as it relates to their already existing practice

Other Course Materials

Research will be done via various videos, articles, etc. that can be found online.

Outline of Topics

See COURSE SCHEDULE.

Exams and Assignments

400 pts. total:

1. Class Participation @ 100 points: 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 @ 100 points: A technique exam based on various exercises and graded on the following criteria: rhythm, style, technique, and retention.
3. Final Evaluation/Performance@ 200 points: Grading criteria is the same as the technique exams, adding the element of performance.

Grading Policy

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

Policy on Missed Exams and 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.

Attendance Policy

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

*Exceptions will be made this semester due to the pandemic. If you cannot attend attend class due to illness or possible exposure to the virus, you may attend via Zoom with prior approval from the instructor. Attending class via Zoom counts towards your attendance.

If you come to class but are unable to participate due to sickness or injury, your participation for the day can be fulfilled upon the completion of a Class Evaluation Form. Lack of physical participation, either in person or via Zoom, may result in your being asked to drop the class. **Communication is the key to successfully navigating this unusual time.**

Regardless of how many absences you have accrued, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS WITH A FEVER OR ANY SIGNS OF COVID-19.**

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Code of Physical Conduct

This class involves movement-based research, and, as such, will involve physical contact with other class participants and the instructor. As your instructor, I will be giving you both verbal and physical corrections. If you have any concerns before or during the class about the nature of this contact, please see me immediately. Also, please be communicative about any special physical needs or injuries.

Attire

Comfortable, loose-fitting yet not baggy clothing, appropriate supportive underclothes, and good tap shoes are required for this class. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for each day after the first day of class that you do not have tap shoes.

Buy what you can afford but you get what you pay for and should be able to buy a decent pair for \$75-\$150. If you are true beginner, I suggest one of the following:

<https://www.capezio.com/capezio-classic-tap-capezio-classic-tap>

<https://www.capezio.com/roxy-tap-shoe>

<https://www.capezio.com/premiere-tap><https://us.blochworld.com/collections/adults-dance-shoes-tap/products/ladies-respect-tap-shoes-black-leather>

Ladies: I suggest a good pair of hard-sole flat shoes -- both Capezio and Bloch make decent versions for roughly \$100. You should eventually also acquire a good pair 2 1/2 or 3-inch character tap shoes that match your skin tone (required for DN 310).

Men: I suggest a pair of flats with a hard sole. Both Capezio and Bloch make decent versions for roughly \$100.

Non-binary or gender non-conforming students: Draw from either one of these options.

All: If you want to invest in Miller and Bens or LaDucas, I'm happy to chat with you about options. These shoes will last forever but you DO NOT have to buy shoes that are this expensive for this class. Sometimes upperclassmen are interested in selling shoes after upgrading. Put the word out and see!

Also, keep your hair pulled away from your face, do not wear hats, and keep jewelry to a minimum.

Points will be deducted from your participation grade for each day after the first week of class that you do not dress appropriately or have your shoes.

If you have any questions about what to buy/wear, feel free to ask!

It is a good idea to have Tiger Balm, knee pads, a small first-aid kit with band-aids, etc. in your dance bag. And always bring a bottle of water to class to keep yourself hydrated.

<https://www.thedancedocs.com/episodes/dancing-in-a-mask> (<https://www.thedancedocs.com/episodes/dancing-in-a-mask>)

Course Schedule

JANUARY

13 Introduction/ Go over syllabus

18 MLK Day -- No class

20 Learn warm-up/assess levels/shuffles, flaps

25 Technique – maxi fords, buffalos

27 Continue technique – Irish, cramp rolls, etc.

FEBRUARY

1 Introduction of turns across the floor

3 Continue turns

8 Begin Midterm Combo

15 Work combo/technique -- running flaps, drawbacks

17 Work combo/technique

22 Work combo/technique

24 Technique – soft shoe/essences (front & back)

MARCH

1 Midterm Review

3 Midterm Exam

8 Midterm Evaluation

10 TBA

15 Mid-semester Study Break -- No class

17 Introduce time steps

22 Review time steps, add traveling time steps

24 Begin final combo

29 Work technique, bombers/hays/combo

31 Work technique/combo

APRIL

5 Work technique/combo

7 Work technique/combo

12 Final Evaluation Review

14 Final Evaluation Review

19 Final Evaluation

21 Last Day of Class -- Final Evaluation Review

Studio Etiquette

Due to the COVID Pandemic:

- No activities that require direct or indirect contact including partnering, tactile cueing, direct floor work, or touching the same equipment.
- Everyone will wear face coverings. You are responsible for bringing your own face covering to each class. Please bring an extra mask or face covering should the one you are wearing become saturated with sweat during class. If you have underlying health conditions that would make wearing a face covering during a movement class an added challenge, please communicate with your instructor.
- Wash your hands before and after each class. Do not touch your face. Sanitizer will be available should you need to use it during class.

- To maximize dance space in the studios, please place your belongings in the lockers and changing rooms.
- For center work, dancers will remain at least 10 feet away from others. Basic parameters will be marked with tape on the floor of each studio. Your instructor will assign your area of the room.
- For traveling patterns, dancers will maintain 10 feet distance apart standing side by side in one line and allow each group to complete the combination to the end of the room before the next group starts.
- Dancers will maintain a distance of at least 8 feet when waiting to go across the floor and after completing the combination.
- Classes may end a few minutes before scheduled to allow for proper cleaning and transition of students. Your instructor will task you to assist in this process.
- Water fountains will not be available. Please bring your own water bottle(s) to each class.
- Dressing rooms will be for storing items during class only, not for changing clothes. Please come to class already dressed for moving.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for

religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/oaa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>) .

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact (<https://www.ua.edu/uact>)) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Statement on COVID-19

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at studentaccounts.ua.edu (<https://studentaccounts.ua.edu>) and financialaid.ua.edu (<https://financialaid.ua.edu/>) .

All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class; (2) adhere to social distancing standards; and (3) comply with all other health and safety restrictions. If a student refuses to comply with the requirements, the student will be asked to leave the class and reported for a conduct violation. Unless a student has an exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering, (more information can be found at ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/ (<http://ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/>)), the student will be reported to Student Life for further disciplinary action. More information on these requirements and UA Healthcheck system and screening can be found at healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan (<https://healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan>) . You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.