

The Ohio State University
Department of Dance
Instructor: Chris Cogell
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Graduate Office – Sullivant Hall
Office Hours: By Appointment

Social Dance
DANCE 2181
2 credit hours

I Course Description

Introductory level survey of Social Dance for non-majors. This course is offered as a beginning-level study of selected social dance forms of North America. The course requires physical practice of dance forms and includes survey of the history, theory, and/or literature of Social Dance comprised of readings and/or viewings.

II Course Goals and Objectives

Goals:

At the successful completion of the course the student will demonstrate the following:

- A working understanding of selected 20th Century American social dance forms
- Rhythmic skills and abilities characteristic of these dance forms
- An awareness of body balance and control, and a basic understanding of styling
- A basic understanding of the role social dance played in American culture c. 1912-1935

III Course Content and Procedures

Content:

- The course has been designed to introduce the student to American social dance technique.
- The technical activities in the course are primarily presented by means of demonstration and description. Short lectures, discussions, and video presentations will be included in some class sessions.
- Selected Dances
- Dances from various eras have been selected so that the student can learn the different styles of the dance form.

Dance forms to be taught:

Swing Dances

- 20's & 40's Charlestone
- East Coast Swing
- Lindy Hop
- Balboa
- Shim Sham
- West Coast Swing

Blues Dances

- Slow Drag
- Jookin'
- Ballroom Blues

- Struttin’
- Argentine Tango
Elements of Fusion Dance
Possibility of guest instructors to teach:

- Ballroom
- Latin
- Hip Hop
- Contact Improvisation
- Solo Jazz and Tap

Procedures:

List of procedures for course.

IV Requirements and Evaluation

Requirements: may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Participation/Effort
- Skills/Knowledge
- Improvement
- Completion of all assignments and exams.

Evaluation:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation/Effort | 50% |
| 2. Skills/Knowledge/Improvement | 40% |
| 3. Assignments | 10% |

Attendance

Students may miss 10% of the classes (three total for classes meeting twice weekly and four total for classes meeting three times weekly.) Absence from more than 10% of classes will affect the final grade by lowering it five points for each additional absence. These absences include excused (e.g. illness) and unexcused (e.g. not in the mood) absences. Make-up classes are not allowed.

Participation

Students are expected to take the entire class. If students must observe class due to illness or injury, they will complete a written observation. Three full observations equal one absence in the final grade.

If students stop participating in a class, they will not rejoin the class that day, and an explanation will be given to the instructor after class. Partial participation will be monitored and factor into the final grade.

Promptness

Students arriving after the roll call are tardy and may be asked to sit out. Three tardies constitute an absence in the final grade.

Assignments

Dance Assignment 1 – Swing Choreography

This first assignment is to choreograph a swing dance routine (at least 30 seconds) as a solo, couple, or line dance using the swing moves and steps learned in class so far.

Dance Assignment 2 – Blues Dance

This assignment is to demonstrate the various styles of blues with a partner. You will be given a list of songs to dance to, and you will be asked to film yourself and a partner dancing to these songs in a style consistent with the musical influences.

Dance Assignment 3 – Argentine Tango

This assignment will be done in class. You will be asked to dance a *tanda* (set of three songs) with a partner in an improvisational Argentine Tango dance. You will be required to use tango steps and aesthetic.

V Grading Scale

94-100	A	77-79	C+
90-93	A-	74-76	C
87-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-86	B	67-69	D+
80-83	B-	60-66	D
		Below 60	

VI Required Experiences

Social Dance in Columbus

You are required to attend at least three social dance events/evening in Columbus or the surrounding area. This could include Sacré Blues, Westside Groove, Friday Night Tango at OSU, Monday Night Swing at OSU, Wednesday Swing at Nyoh's, a milonga or practica at Trinity Tango, or a larger weekend workshop/event. It is preferred to attend a style that is being studied in this course: Argentine Tango, Swing, Blues, or Fusion. Please talk to the instructor if you would like to attend an event of a different style of social dance. The student must then submit a minimum of 400 words on what they learned at the event, what they observed in the dancers there, the music that was played, and any differences in how the dance style was danced in comparison to this course.

Online Viewings

There are eight separate viewings required. Each viewing is due by the beginning of that week.

Due by Week 3 – Swing

Hellzapoppin' (1941): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahoJReiCaPk>

Contemporary ILHC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jn8DUhMUcyY>

Due by Week 7 – Blues

The Spirit Moves: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uka3wkLmlQ>

Contemporary Blues: <https://youtu.be/RSEhl62LT4A>

Due by Week 11 – Argentine Tango

Argentine Tango: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q_sVL8kU7o

Exhibition Tango: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwLvur_4GdQ

Due by Week 13 – “Fusion”

Heri and Brooke: Tango and Blues Fusion: <https://youtu.be/RG8pmebwrM8>

Wren and Kelly: Improv and Acro: <https://youtu.be/Nqhct5iluL8>

VII Topical Outline

WEEKS ONE TO FOUR

- Partnered dance foundations
- Introduction to Swing: East Coast Swing, Charleston, Lindy Hop, Shim Sham
- Solo Jazz Master Class

WEEK FIVE

- Swing dance review
- Dance Assignment 1

WEEKS SIX TO EIGHT

- Introduction to Blues: slow drag, ballroom blues, strutting, solo Blues

WEEK NINE

- Hip Hop Master Class
- Blues and Swing review
- Dance Assignment 2

WEEKS TEN TO TWELVE

- Introduction to Argentine Tango
- Ballroom Master Class

WEEK THIRTEEN TO FOURTEEN

- Examination of “Fusion” styles
- Dance Assignment 3
- Review of Semester

EXAM WEEK (No Classes)

VIII Bibliography

Giordano, Ralph G. *Social Dancing in America: A History and Reference*.

Groppa, Carlos G. *The Tango in the United States: A History*.

Hazzard-Gordon, Katrina. *Jookin': The Rise of Social Dance Formations in African-American Culture*.

Lavocah, Michael. *Tango Stories: Musical Secrets*.

Malone, Jacqui. *Steppin' on the Blues: The Visible Rhythms of African American Dance*.

Stearns, Marshall and Jean. *Jazz Dance: The Story of American Vernacular Dance*.

IX Miscellaneous

Touch statement:

Dance is a physical art form, which often requires physical contact with others – particularly partnered social dance forms. 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 (in person or via email). These concerns are perfectly acceptable and will in NO WAY affect a student's grade.

Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Escort service and phone number for evening courses 614-292-3322.