

Tap 1

class: DAA 2520L
location: CON G11
time: Tues/Thurs, Periods 4-5 (10:40 - 12:35)
instructor: Andrew Cao (he/him/his)
email: andrewcao@ufl.edu
phone: 352.273.0597
office: McCarty C 305
office hours: Tues 12:35 - 3pm or by appointment

Course Overview:

This class is designed for students who are at the very beginning of their tap journey. Students will learn fundamental rhythms, sounds, techniques, vocabulary, and a foundational knowledge of tap history. 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, associated vocabulary, and how to execute each with the proper technique
- increase comfortability with improvisation and develop a unique tap voice
- further understand and implement elements of musicality
- learn to pick up choreography quicker and represent yourself better in dance auditions
- deepen knowledge and awareness of tap's history and origins.

Dance Attire and Class Etiquette

SHOES



For female identifying tappers, 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 idea of graduating to a heel in the future. Color is up to you.



Dancers are welcome to wear whatever tap shoes in which they feel most comfortable!



For male identifying tappers, any flat tap shoe will do. Color is up to you.



CLOTHES: Clothes should be comfortable and allow you to move freely. If you choose to wear pants, please make sure your feet/ankles are unobscured and the pants are not long or baggy in a way which impedes your movement.

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.

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: You may take video of the material we learn to help you practice on your own, but you may absolutely NOT share any videos recorded in class publicly.

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 the use of a physical correction will be helpful 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 contact me however you're most comfortable so you and I can come up with a solution together.

Content Warning

It is possible that some of the material we cover in class may be unsettling or difficult for students. You are always welcome to step away for a moment, without penalty, should we cover material or explore something that affects you in this way. Please feel free to communicate concerns or considerations of which you wish me to be aware at any time throughout the semester.

Schedule

Daily schedule will depend on the technical needs of the class as well as the speed at which they are comfortably able to move through material. Terminology and technique covered throughout the course of the semester may include but are not limited to:

Flap	Crawl	Bombershay	Toe Stand
Shuffle	Riff	Soft Shoe	Heel Stand
Stomp	Paradiddle / Paddle'n'Roll	Buffalo	Single Time Step
Stamp	Cramp Roll	Maxi Ford	Double Time Step
Dig	Essence	Rolling Shuffle	Triple Time Step
Scuff	Shirley Temple/Broadway	Shim Sham	Swing Rhythm
Brush	Irish	Drawbacks	Even Rhythm
Spank	Waltz Clog	Cincinnati	Pullbacks

Week 1	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 2	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 3	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 4	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 5	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 6	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 7	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i> Mid-Term Check-in
Week 8	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 9	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 10	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 11	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 12	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 13	<i>Warm-up, technique, rhythm, improv exercises, and combination</i>
Week 14	Final Presentation Review & Prep
Week 15	Final Presentations

Mid-Term Check-In: Half-way through the semester, students will be given a summary of their attendance and be notified if their “Daily Classroom Participation” grades are on track to negatively affect their final grade. Please see the next page for a complete “Daily Classroom Participation” breakdown.

Grading

Letter Grade	Total Points	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

Current UF grading policies can be found at:

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

Semester grade will be based on a

100 point scale

Attendance: 40 Points.

If you are nursing an injury, please let me know. You can observe class without penalty.

Absences	Total Deduction from Semester Grade
1	Ok!
2	Ok!
3	-3 (conference with me)
4	-10
5	-20
6	-30
7	automatic failure

Late	Total Deduction from Semester Grade
1	Ok!
2	Ok!
3	Ok!
4	-5 (conference with me)
5	-10
6	-15
7	-20

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

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Daily Classroom Performance: 40 points

The categories below are each worth 8 points.

Attitude	Student is positive, optimistic, joyful, and supportive of other students...
Motivation	Student is focused, pushes self to increase technique, strength, and flexibility, and demonstrates the overall desire to improve as a dancer...
Preparation	Student is wearing proper attire, has learned the material we covered in the previous class, is well-rested/hydrated/fed, and ready to approach the work like a professional...
Execution of Combos	Student is choreographically accurate, rhythmically precise, and displays an understanding of the proper style...
Direction & Correction	Student applies direction and corrections to the best of their ability...
	8 Points = Always
	6 Points = Most of the time
	4 Points = Sometimes
	2 Points = Rarely
	0 Points = Never

Final Presentation: 20 Points.

PART 1: Identify Vocabulary	7 points	<p>I will demonstrate various tap steps we learned throughout the semester. You will have to identify them and write them down.</p> <p>The vocabulary test will have 21 questions. Each answer is worth 1/3 of a point.</p>
PART 2: Create and Demonstrate your own Choreography	6 points	<p>Your combination must be a minimum of 30 seconds long and contain a specified number of steps from a checklist I will provide to you.</p> <p>1 point = minimum 30 seconds 1 point = contains required dance steps 2 points = Rhythmic Accuracy 2 Points = Presentation/Creativity</p>
PART 3: Perform Class Choreo	7 Points	<p>We'll choose material that we learned throughout the semester and connect it all together through a structured performance. We will spend time in class reviewing and preparing this material before the final presentation date.</p> <p>Choreographic Accuracy = 2 points Attitude/Energy = 3 points Demonstrated Growth = 2 points</p>

University Policies

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

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. Click here to read the Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Policy on Course Syllabi Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact Uf Helpdesk (helpdesk.ufl.edu) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center (career.ufl.edu): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support (cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center (teachingcenter.ufl.edu): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio (writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>)

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process (<https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>)

Campus Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the shcc.ufl.edu/

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/> or call 352-273-4450.