

**THEA 2123—Dance for Theatre: Tap
SYLLABUS**

Midwestern State University, Texas

MWF 11:00am-11:50am

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

Email: morgan.mallory@msutexas.edu

Office Hours are MWF from 1-2pm and TTh from 11-12:30p, office hours can also be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will practice fundamental principles, skills, and vocabulary of beginning tap dance technique. Each class will begin with a warm-up and progress to movement combinations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To provide the student with an understanding and appreciation of the art of tap dance. Students will be able to:

1. learn to warm up and prepare the body for dance activities;
2. develop skills necessary of a beginning tap dancer;
3. demonstrate the necessary skills to advance in tap dance technique;
4. develop critical thinking skills for discussion and executing tap dance;
5. rehearse and perform a number of movement combinations demonstrating a fundamental understanding of tap dance technique.

TEXTS: No text is required for this class. However, proper tap shoes ARE REQUIRED and will be needed for each class. You need these before week 2 of classes. Some of my favorite places to purchase are Amazon, discountdance.com and dancewearsolutions.com

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS: This is a participation-based class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The work for this course primarily occurs during class time and cannot be made up outside of class. Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to a dance class; please arrive on time, ready to dance. There are 3 absences allowed for both excused instances and illness. After the 3 allowed absences, a student's grade will drop by one full letter grade. For example, if a student has obtained an overall grade of B+ at the end of the semester, but has 4 absences, the student's grade will be adjusted to a C+. If you are absent or late, the following penalties apply:

Attendance Penalty Scale

1-3 absences no penalty
4 absences full grade drop
5 absences two grades dropped, etc.

Lateness

Late – 5 points
Really late (over 25 minutes) – 10 points
More than ½ of class – whole class

If students are sick/quarantining, they can still receive class credit/attendance points by attending the synchronous class via Zoom. They will be required to be present, dressed, have their camera on during the whole class period, and to do all exercises. Students MUST arrange for online classes 24 hours in advance with their instructor. Classes will NOT be recorded for students to view at any time; the student must be present for the class period as scheduled by the university. The Zoom link for class attendance will be given when requested by the student.

I DO NOT accept late work. If you have an excused absence, the homework must be turned in via email the date and time it is due, NO exceptions. If you are set to perform on a day you are missing due to an excused absence, you must exchange with a peer and it must be preapproved BEFORE the day of performance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Have fun, be engaged, participate fully to develop your skills and imagination, and gain to insight about yourself. Participation will be graded on attitude, effort, execution of movement, improvement, and classroom discipline and conduct. Class shall follow standards of etiquette typical for the Dance discipline by: demonstrating respect for instructors and fellow students, refraining from talking during organized exercises, and not chewing gum.
2. **PROPER ATTIRE:** Proper attire is mandatory for this class. We WILL be sweating in class! It's fine if you wear jeans/pants, but these must be rolled up to the knee and expose your ankle and calf. NO JEWELRY or HATS. Tap shoes are required. Food or drink is NOT allowed in the studio. A water bottle is welcome and encouraged.
3. **PRODUCTIONS:** View the current 2 theatrical productions at MSU Texas, and reflect about them in class. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated student ID.
4. **SKILLS TESTS:** Rehearse and present 4 movement combinations, as assigned by the instructor. These will be taught in class and will span different styles of tap dance. Each performance will be taped and discussed with the student, both at midterm and during the final weeks of class.

Students will also be assigned a final choreography assignment. Details forthcoming!

GRADING: The grading breakdown is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	65%
PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE	10%
SKILLS TESTS AND EVALUATION	25%

Grading Scale

100-93	A	82-80	B-	69-66	D+
92-90	A-	79-76	C+	65-63	D
89-86	B+	75-73	C	62-60	D-
85-83	B	72-70	C-	Below 60	F

This course has considerable in-class participation in the movement and theory processes taught in the classroom, attendance is critical for learning. The content of each class builds on the content covered in the prior class. Students who are absent will be expected to proactively seek out and understand the information covered in class. All material may be included in the evaluation of the student whether absent or not.

There is no distinction in the reason for absences including notes from a doctor, injury, illness, or skipping class etc. An absence is an absence unless the student is acting as an official representative of the University and provided prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

Three non-official absences are allowed to accommodate students who must miss class due to illness, funerals, etc. Students may have one observation day.

Students with 6 or more absences will receive an “F” for the course. In this instance, other grading factors will not be considered.

GENERAL NOTES

1. NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING...not even on silent!
2. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.
3. When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.

We will be listening to different types of music throughout our course. Please let the instructor know if you have any restrictions of music due to religion or personal standards.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class.

The instructor may record performances, from time to time, on a cell phone for legitimate class reasons. Student recording of the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, unless it is done by the professor for grading purposes, or can be done by obtaining written consent by the instructor. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

Student Handbook

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Concealed Carry in Laboratories:

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin or form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

Safe Zone Statement

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being –regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.