

**University of North Texas
Department of Dance and Theatre
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

**Spring 2020
Tuesday and Thursday 6:00-7:20 PM
DATH-110**

**Social Club Dance
DANC 3700 Section 1**

Faculty Contact Information:

Reyna Mondragon: Reyna.Mondragon@unt.edu
Office Hours: by appointment.

Class Location: DATH 129

DESCRIPTION: An introduction to Ballroom and Latin dancing typical in social settings, the course typically covers American and International styles such as Swing, Lindy Hop, Cha Cha, Waltz, Rumba, Quickstep, Foxtrot, Samba, Mambo, Merenge, Tango, and Salsa. Students will learn proper execution of movements and basic partnering techniques.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To become skilled in the style and techniques particular to Social Club Dancing dance including basic terminology, dance positions, basic steps, formations, and rhythms.
2. To develop a deeper understanding of the cultural/historical roots of these dance styles.
3. To develop rhythmic accuracy, balance, partnering skills, and ease in movement.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Professionalism: Positive Class Participation/Attitude

1. Students always need to participate in class in a professional manner. Professionalism aids in expediency of tasks and helps to establish a safe environment that is conducive to excellence and creativity.
2. Students prepare for class by coming five to ten minutes early, and warming-up on your own in the space as soon as you enter the room. This will focus you for the class and help to prevent injuries.
3. Students are expected to come to class prepared, eager to learn and participate with a positive spirit and energetic attitude. You are expected to give yourself fully to classroom exercises, bringing your whole self to the experiences, and

pushing yourself to grow. It is your responsibility to ***check your UNT email and Blackboard regularly*** for class updates on assignments.

4. Appropriate attire for freedom of movement is required. Sweatshirts and T-shirts may be worn at the beginning of class and through the warm-up (alignment of the body must be visible). Hair should be securely fastened and off the neck. No excessive jewelry (large ear rings, dangling necklaces, large watches, etc.) is allowed in class for the safety of all class participants. The instructor has the right to set the standard for appropriate dress in each class.
5. Students always need to be respectful to the professor and other students by being quiet and attentive in class when the professor or another student is speaking or performing. This is a vital part of being professional.
6. Daily positive participation is essential to your grade in this course (see grade break-down). Your full involvement in the exercises is expected whether you are acting as a mover, observer, speaker, or listener.
7. Please fill out the student evaluations at the end of the semester in a thoughtful and respectful manner.
8. Finally, please review the syllabus and calendar throughout the semester to ensure that you thoroughly understand the requirements. It is your responsibility to contact the professor if you are confused or having difficulty.

B. Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance Grading Policy for Department of Dance studio classes:

Since performance in studio classes in particular relies almost entirely on work accomplished during each class any absence from class will impact the grade.

- Students are allowed two (2) absence. There are no excused absences except for personal or family emergencies or a UNT official activity, which the professor needs to approve. On the second absence your overall grade will be lowered by 5%; for example, a 90% becomes an 85%. On the third absence, you will earn a failing grade for the course. (UNT allows the instructor to ask the registrar to drop a student with a “WF” upon accumulation of the stated number of absences.)
- Students who do not attend the first day of class may be dropped in order to accommodate those who are on the wait list.

Lateness and Early Departures: Students should not arrive late to class or ask to leave early.

Typically, **(2) tardies and/or early departures will equal one absence. If the student comes in 5 minutes late to class they are choosing to get 5 points taken off from their daily grade.** In

order to insure all students are properly warmed up and prevent injuries, students arriving more than 5 minutes late for class may not be allowed to take class.

Observations/Sitting Out: Students should request to observe a class only in exceptional cases - the expectation is that all students will participate even though the level of activity and kind of activity may be adjusted to accommodate specific health issues. If an observation is approved by the teacher, the student will take notes following specific directions given by the teacher. These notes will be turned in at the conclusion of class. The quality of these notes will determine the student's grade for that particular day. Under no circumstances should students study for other courses during an observation.

Typically, *observations are considered one-half absences*, as the student is not fully engaged in the activity or the class.

Should a student need to sit down during class, she or he is expected to remain attentive and engaged with the class. Sitting at the front of the studio, watching and learning through attentive observation, or taking written notes is appropriate. Lying on the floor, sleeping, talking or texting on a cell phone, or engaging in conversation with other students during class is not considered appropriate. No student should be consistently sitting out as it warrants a low class participation grade. **Typically, 'sitting out' two times equals one absence.**

Grading and Evaluation: a student may receive 10 points per day based on the following grading criteria:

"A" 9-10 pts (Daily) This is an exceptional grade for distinctly superior work. Every aspect is of exceptional quality. This grade is reserved for a very few who are at the top of the class, an exception rather than the rule. The student demonstrates a clear ability to understand and articulate the concepts presented, has thoroughly mastered the subject, displays marked initiative and exhibits intellectual curiosity. The student shows a full range of cognitive and physical skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

"B" 8pts (Daily) This is an above average grade for achievement of the highest order. This grade is reserved for students who are at the top of the class but fall below an "A." The student has fulfilled the requirements and has achieved excellence in all aspects of the work including complete attentiveness, accuracy of knowledge, independence, creativity, and critical thought. The student demonstrates most levels of cognitive and physical skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

"C" 7pts (Daily) The student shows evidence of knowledge about the subjects and is able to analyze concepts. The student may have an open, active, and discriminating mind but demonstrates lower and middle level ability and retention of skills specific to that class particularly knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. This student takes no initiative or leadership in their learning. This is an average grade.

“D” 6pts (Daily) The student demonstrates lower level ability and retention of skills specific to the class material, takes no initiative or leadership in learning and is consistently unprepared or unaware of concepts. This student demonstrates lower than average ability and retention of skills specific to that class particularly knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

“F” 5pts (Daily) The student has failed to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of any of the class subject matter or concepts. This student has failed to acquire or retain skills specific to class material, takes no initiative or leadership in learning and is closed to the subject matter.

GRADES: Students will be graded as follows:

70% Positive Class Participation

15% Movement Test given at midterm

15% Movement Test given at the end of the semester

University Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: (<http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.html>): The University takes plagiarism and cheating very seriously. Plagiarized work will earn a zero for the assignment. Students will face action according to University guidelines for academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to submit any paper I suspect of plagiarism to Turnitin.com.

Academic Ethics: (<http://www.unt.edu/csrr0>): Acts of academic dishonesty are subject to discipline at UNT. Cheating plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading information are acts of academic dishonesty. The definitions of these terms are clearly described in the Undergraduate Catalog (www.unt.edu/catalog) and by the Center for Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Authorized Class Absence: (http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/III-a.html): All travel by students off campus for the purpose of participation in UNT sponsored activities must be authorized by the dean of the school or college of the sponsoring department. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the dean of students for instructors.

Absence for Religious Holidays: (http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/III-a.html): A student absent due to the observance of a religious holiday may take examinations/ complete assignments scheduled for the day(s) missed within a reasonable time after the absence. Class participants should notify the instructor via email of planned absences for religious holidays.

Disability Support Services: (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>)): ODA Office in Sage Hall, Suite 167.

Office of Disability Accommodation Statement: (ODA)- The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

To graduate, students majoring in dance are required to have a minimum grade of “B” in dance technique courses that comprise their major.