

**University of North Texas  
Department of Theater and Dance**

**Spring 2021**

**DANC 2710 – Tap Dance Technique Level II**

Monday/ Wednesday 12:30-1:50 PM

Dance and Theater Arts Building (DATH) 129

Studio/ Laboratory Course

**Meet Your Instructor:**

Welcome to our class! My name is Reyna Mondragon and I am excited to explore tap dance technique with you this semester. If you would like to know more about who I am, I encourage you to visit my website @ [ReynaMondragon.com](http://ReynaMondragon.com). If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Reyna.mondragon@unt.edu](mailto:Reyna.mondragon@unt.edu) or drop by my office hours, which are the thirty minutes prior to class in DATH 103F (Adjunct Office).

**Course Materials and Supplies:**

Dance Attire and Tap Shoes are required. Hair should be secured out of the face. No bulky jewelry that could cause a safety concern to yourself or other dancers. A single subject notebook for class is optional but heavily encouraged to record your observations, questions, corrections, and “ah-ha!” moments for your personal practice.

**Catalog Course Description:**

Tap Dance Technique, Level II. 1 hour. (1;3) A continuation of DANC 1710 with an emphasis placed on performance of relatively more complex combinations of movement patterns and increased vocabulary. Attention to performing technically to include more intricate rhythm skills, projection, focus, spatial clarity and overall musicality.

Prerequisite(s): placement through proficiency exam. May be repeated for credit.

**Overview:**

In this course we will continue to build and clarify our tap technique. I will push you not only to perform more complicated tap sequences, but also to begin to explore your personal tap stylistic preferences through improvisational activities, choreographic assignments, teaching demonstrations, and verbal presentations.

**Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an intermediate level of proficiency in tap dance technique through practical evaluations.
2. Identify steps using a basic knowledge of tap terminology.

3. Demonstrate how basic tap steps and rhythms build upon one another.
4. Demonstrate the ability to express musicality, creativity, and an individual performance style in tap dance through choreography and performance of movement studies.
5. Apply knowledge of the history and varied styles of tap dance through a research and presentation project.

**Course Content:**

Sound and rhythm analysis

Movement combinations

Structured improvisation and choreographic work

Tap technique terminology

Historical overview – innovators and styles

**Recommended Texts:**

*You are not required to purchase these textbooks, but they are great tap resources that will be referenced throughout the semester.*

Feldman, A. (1996). Inside Tap: Technique and Improvisation for Today's Tap Dancer. Princeton Book Co.

Fletcher, B. (2002). Tapworks: A Tap Dictionary and Reference Manual. Princeton Book Co.

Seibert, B. (2015). What the Eye Hears: A History of Tap Dancing. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

**UNITS: (subject to change)**

- **Unit 1. RHYTHM**
- **Unit 2. CLASSICAL**
- **Unit 3. BROADWAY**
- **Unit 4. FREE STYLE (you get to teach)**
- **Unit 5. FUNK**
- **Unit 6. FINAL (YOU CREATE)**

**Evaluation:**

**1. Class Participation/Attendance: (70%)**

Class participation will be evaluated daily on a 5 point scale:

Focused and active involvement - 5 points

Tardiness, early departure, no tap shoes - 3 points

Lack of focus and active involvement - 2 points

Observing (sick/injured) - 2 points (no more than 3 consecutive classes)

Absent - 0 points

In studio classes, a large portion of your evaluation is dependent upon your work

in class (punctuality, focused participation, application of corrections given, etc.). Any absence from class will impact your participation points.

## **2. Five Unit Assessments: (15%)**

These assessments will consist of the movement relating to the tap dance components studied in the unit. These movement assessments will be skill based, but the instructor will also consider the individual student's improvement and effort demonstrated.

## **3. Group Teaching Days: (5%) FREE STYLE**

Students will be placed in groups of 3 or 4 people. First students will work individually to come up with a phrase that best expresses themselves through tap. Once they have solidified their individual phrases, they will work together in their groupings to put the phrases together. Once they have done so each group will have the entire class time or part of the class to teach their phrase (this is yet to be solidified).

## **4. Final Presentation: (10%)**

Students will be placed in groups of 3 or 4 to work together and select a contemporary or historical tap innovator and research his or her style, background, and training. This information will be developed into a Pecha Kucha Presentation that includes video clips demonstrating the selected dancer's style and a short movement combination performed by the students that is representative of the selected dancer's style or is a reconstruction of a dance work performed by the selected dancer. Details for this project will be provided on a separate handout.

The final will be on Wednesday April 21st during class.

## **Final Grades:**

A = 90%+

B = 89% - 80%

C = 79% - 70%

D = 69% - 60%

F = less than 60%

## **Class Guidelines:**

1. Neat and appropriate dance attire is required for each class.

Dance pants, workout pants, and tops, which allow for freedom of movement are acceptable. Please do not wear jeans or dress clothes to class. Such attire will compromise your movement and you will be deducted participation points. A leotard and tights are not required, but are certainly acceptable attire for class. **Tap shoes are required for each class.**

2. No street shoes in the studio.
3. Keep jewelry to a minimum.
4. No gum chewing, or food in class. You may bring a water bottle. Please turn off cell phones.
5. Please respect your classmates, their creativity, expression, and concentration.

### **Attendance/Participation 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) absences. There are no excused absences except for personal or family emergencies or a UNT official activity, which the professor needs to approve. On the third absence your overall grade will be lowered by 5%; for example, a 90% becomes an 85%. On the fourth 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.

### **VISIBILITY on ZOOM –**

- In the Partial & Fully Remote formats, it is important to keep visual engagement for both student and instructor to enable assessment and accessibility throughout each zoom class meeting. This requires full body visibility within the camera frame with top or front light support (not in silhouette). Each time the student is not visible (camera turned off) it will count as an absence. To find information on technical assistance please read below. Please review Materials for Remote Learning Instruction below for further requirements.
- **Lateness and Early Departures:** Remote and Face to Face 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 and students arriving more than 10 minutes late for class will not be allowed to take class.**
- **Observations/Sitting Out:** Remote and Face to Face 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. (Remote students must keep their camera on at all times)

- Typically, *observations are considered one-half absences*, as the student is not fully engaged in the activity or the class.
- Should a Remote or Face to Face student need to sit down during class, they are 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.**

### **LATE WORK:**

Late work is not permitted in this class. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered for extreme extenuating circumstances. Students must speak or email the instructor immediately if they foresee a problem in submitting their work on time.

All required assignments in this course may be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com

### **MAKEUP WORK:**

Only in specific circumstances may the student be allowed to make up an absence. For this consideration communicate with the faculty member at an appropriate time. Do not wait till the last minute.

### **Additional Information:**

Students must have access to UNT’s Canvas platform and UNT outlook (email).

**Very Important: Lack of access to a computer or technical problems with a computer is not an acceptable excuse for missing assignments or meeting deadlines. Plan ahead and develop a backup plan.**

- Students must also save a copy of the important course documents and course assignments on their computers or memory stick in the event that Canvas or the UNT web site becomes unavailable.

-Students should use only their UNT e-mail account when communicating with the instructor, classmates, and completing online coursework.

-Students must make a consistent practice of sending a carbon copy to themselves of any email they send out in order to document their work and to keep these in a designated electronic computer folder on their own computer or external drive.

### ***Materials for Remote Learning Instruction***

The UNT spring schedule requires this course to have partially remote instruction . Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a

[webcam, microphone, or device such as phone, tablet or computer, with reliable internet connection] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [7x7 foot space to move, if possible)]. Learn more about how to be successful in a remote learning environment

### ***Technical Assistance***

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** UIT Student Help Desk site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help  
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

### ***Class Recordings & Student Likenesses***

Synchronous sessions in this course may be recorded upon students request. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

## **Course Communication:**

### General Guidelines

- Remember that college communication is still professional communication. Use correct spelling and grammar and always double-check your response before hitting send or reply. Do not use slang and limit the use of emoticons.
- Use standard, readable fonts, sizes, and colors and avoid writing in all caps.
- Use your instructor's title of "Dr." or "Professor," or if you don't know use "Mr." or "Ms." Do not use "Mrs." to address female instructors unless told otherwise by said instructor.
- Be mindful of tone in online communication as it lacks the nonverbal cues of face-to-face communication that provide clarity and context to conversations.
- Respect the personal identities of others based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.
- Respect the privacy of yourself, your instructor, and your peers. Keep in mind what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves personal health and/or classroom performance, such as grades.
- Give people the benefit of the doubt. Though there may be a computer between you, there are people on the other side of the screen.
- Do not make assumptions about others' technological skills. Technological skills vary across a variety of factors, including experience, age, culture, etc.

### Communicating via Email

- Check the syllabus before asking a question about the course and let the instructor know you checked the syllabus before asking. Instructors put a lot of time into making syllabi as comprehensive as possible for students.
- Use a descriptive subject line to get the instructor's attention. Instructors receive a lot of emails and a descriptive subject line helps them identify student inquiries more efficiently.
- Be concise and to the point.

## University Policies:

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation:**

[https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.004\\_Nondiscrimination.Pub\\_.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.004_Nondiscrimination.Pub_.pdf) The University of North Texas (University) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

An individual who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the incident to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Students may also report such conduct to the Office of the Dean of Students.

**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 Turnitit.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](http://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](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](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.

### **COVID RESOURCES:**

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

### **STEPS:**

- Notify instructors in advance of the absence or inability to participate, if possible.
- Call UNT’s Student Health Services **(940)-565-2333**. Proof of evaluation will be provided to the student.
- Keep up with coursework, as much as possible.

- Participate in class activities remotely (if able) and submit assignments electronically, to the extent possible and as directed by the instructor.
- Reach out to the instructor if illness will require late submission or other modifications to deadlines or work requirements.
- Work with the instructors to reschedule exams, labs and other critical academic activities, when it is necessary.

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PLEASE GO TO THE STUDENT DANCE  
CALL BOARD AND CLICK ON STUDENT RESOURCES**

To graduate, students majoring in dance and theatre must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in dance courses, make a B in dance technique courses and at least a C in all other dance courses comprising his/her major.

\*Students who miss the first day of class without consent of the instructor are subject to be administratively dropped from the course so that other students may be added. Students who must miss the first day of class because of illness or some other acceptable excuse must notify the instructor on record the day of the absence.

\*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.