

2014

MUSC 171-01-02 Beginning Ballroom Dance: Rhythm and Latin

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Xavier University, Spring Semester

"Beginning Ballroom Dance: Rhythm and Latin", MUSC 171

Class: Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Open practice session: Tuesday 8:30 - 9:00 pm

Course Description and Objectives:

This course presents American traditional ballroom dance styles as used for social occasions. Instruction will be for dance styles in which the participants dance in a given spot and these will be the Lindy, Jive, Jitterbug, two versions of Swing, plus the Bolero, Mambo, and Cha-cha.

Areas of instruction:

Origin and Social History - Short lectures will be presented on the origin and social history of the dance styles which the students will be performing. The concept of origin encompasses an understanding of how the patterns of both physical movement and music used in social dancing independently change and evolve with time. As different combinations of movement and music come together, the convergences often result in a composition which comes to be considered a new type of dance. The students will be instructed in the cultural origins which led to the development of each of the instructed styles of dance including the contributions from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and how each of these different dance styles initially were created by modification of earlier movement and music patterns. The students also will learn the subsequent social history of each dance style which includes its periods of popularity. A lecture with demonstration will be presented on the social customs traditionally associated with ballroom dancing including proper ballroom etiquette plus an understanding of its evolution.

Basic Footwork Skills - The step patterns instructed to the students will be those traditionally used when these styles of dance are performed in the United States versus other regions of the world. The instructor will demonstrate differences between these and some related dance styles which are performed in other regions of the world.

Musicality - Lectures and demonstrations will be given on selecting the types of music which have appropriate rhythm patterns for each of the dance styles in which the students are being instructed. This includes a lecture on understanding the musical distinctions between swing timing versus swing styling, and how the musical concept of swing timing relates to the types of dance which are called Swing. Demonstrations will be given as to how the

dance steps are coordinated to the music. The students also will develop a practical understanding of how the music used for each of these styles of dance has changed and evolved through time by dancing to recorded music from different decades.

Performance and Floorcraft - Demonstrations will be given on the correct dancing stance and hold positions, correctly leading and following the different required steps and signaling to your partner during the dances. The students also will be taught the proper usage for each of the instructed dance step patterns and how pattern selection is a response to the positioning and movement of other dancers who are performing on the dance floor.

Teaching Format: Lecture and demonstration.

Required Texts/Software: Currently none

Additional Lab Software: Currently none

Attendance: Attendance will be monitored and the students required to notify the instructor in advance if they either will be absent or late for any class period.

Evaluations:

5 Examinations, each accounting for 20% of course grade, as follows:

Jive, Jitterbug, Single- and Double-step Lindy	200 points
Swing, Triple-step Lindy, & West Coast Swing	200 points
Bolero	200 points
Mambo	200 points
Cha-cha	200 points

For each examination, the students understanding of the origin and social history for that dance style will be evaluated by a quiz accounting for a possible 20 points. The student's dance proficiency also will be assessed with an equal weight of 36 possible points given to each of the following five required aspects:

1. Ability to correctly identify each step pattern taught for that dance.
2. Accuracy in performing the assigned footwork.
3. Correctness of signaling used for leading and following each step pattern.
4. Proficiency in coordinating the dance to music.
5. Skilfulness of performance with a dance partner.

Absence on test day without advance notification will result in the student automatically receiving a grade of zero for that examination. A test can be made-up only with advance request by the student.

The grading scale is based upon the percentage of points earned as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = less than 60.

Course Outline:

Week 1	Jive and Single-step Lindy instruction
Week 2	Jitterbug and Double-step Lindy instruction
Week 3	Examination on Jive, Jitterbug, Single- and Double-step Lindy; start instruction on Swing and Triple-step Lindy
Week 4	Swing and Triple-step Lindy instruction
Week 5	West Coast Swing instruction
Week 6	Examination on Swing, Triple-step Lindy, and West Coast Swing; start instruction on Bolero
Weeks 7-8	Bolero instruction
Week 9	Examination on Bolero and start instruction on Mambo
Weeks 10-11	Mambo instruction
Week 12	Examination on Mambo, start instruction on Cha-cha
Weeks 13-14	Cha-cha instruction
Week 15	Examination on Cha-cha