

PDP DA 170 Tap, Beginning

Instructor: Shaina Schwartz

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Meets twice per week: 1.0 Credit

Dance Program Mission:

Our dance program provides students with technical, historical and compositional courses in multiple genres of dance designed to prepare and enhance their skills in communication, critical thinking and self-expression. Our curriculum choices offer multiple ways of investigating dance as a physical, aesthetic, intellectual and cultural practice. As part of *One BU /Recommendations for Accessing the Arts at BU*, we encourage our students to use their imaginative spirit to find opportunities to create innovative cross-discipline research and practice.

Course Description:

This class provides a solid foundation in tap technique and musicality, along with elements of classic repertoire, tap history, and music theory. We'll learn how to cleanly and efficiently execute everything from flaps and shuffles to time steps and paradiddles, focusing on clear, full-bodied rhythm-making. We will also study the so-called national anthem of tap dance, the Shim-Sham Shimmy, as well as the ubiquitous Condos Rudiments, among other famous material. Students will develop strong, fundamental skills relevant to both jazz tap and musical theater tap styles, and ultimately be able to perform basic steps and patterns with clarity, timing, style, joy, and confidence.

Required Attire:

All students should come to class with tap shoes; suggested brands include Capezio, Bloch, SoDanca, and Miller & Ben. Please speak to me if you have questions about purchasing (or repairing) shoes. Students should also come to class in appropriate dance attire – loose clothes or athletic wear. Baggy or formal clothing is not recommended. Long pants may be worn, but ankles must be visible at all times. In the absence of tap shoes, hard-soled shoes (not sneakers) can suffice.

- Please, no gum or dangerous jewelry.
- Hair secured away from face.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and execute the following basic tap steps: rudiments, crawl, flaps, slaps, shuffles, ball change, hop/leap, rhythm turn, Irish, cramproll (regular, reverse, press, flap, pendulum/around the world), paddle (paradiddle), buffalo, drawbacks, double cincinnati, scuff, scuffle, riff, ruffle, slurps (thirds), Maxie Ford, stomps/stamps, time steps (single, double, triple, military), waltz clog, front & back essence.
- Students will learn at least one of the following historical routines: Shim Sham, Copasetic Soft Shoe, Walk Around (Coles' Stroll).
- Identify and play quarter note, quarter note triplet, eighth note (straight & swung), eighth note triplet, sixteenth note, and sixteenth note triplet steps and phrases. Understand the difference between straight/even and swung notes.
- Define and understand rhythm, syncopation, downbeat, offbeat, accents.
- Understand the following concepts: sidedness, shading, tone/dynamics, scattling.

- Know the different styles of tap (e.g. rhythm/jazz, Broadway, soft shoe) and some of the key steps that define each.
- Develop a general understanding of tap's history, key figures, and connections to American culture.

Lockers:

Permanent lockers are available. All lockers are issued on a first come, first serve basis. Members use a Day Locker for free. See the staff at ProShop. Otherwise, bring your valuables into the studio.

Grading Policy:

This class will be graded Pass/Fail, based on attendance. Please visit the [Registrar's website](#) often to view relevant deadlines! Below is a list of possible grades you may receive in this class:

P – Pass: Completed course requirements, 85% or more classes attended

W – Withdraw: If you drop this class after the specified deadline, you will receive a “W” grade.

MG - Missing Grade: If you decide you do not want to take this course, but forget to drop it, this grade will appear on your transcript. You will still be allowed to graduate and it will not affect your overall GPA, however you are strongly encouraged to drop this course within the allotted deadline to avoid this grade. Dropping before the deadline will remove this class from your transcript entirely.

I – Incomplete: If you fail to meet the attendance requirements of this course, you will receive an “I” until you have made up all missed classes. Please make arrangements with your instructor to do so within the following semester. Your grade will be changed to a “P” once you have made up all classes.

AU- Audit: If you intend to audit this class, please fill out and ask your instructor to sign a Class Adjustment/AU form and turn it in to the Registrar's Office by the deadline.

F- Fail: It is very unlikely that you will receive a failing grade. Your instructor is happy to work with you to make up any missed classes. A grade of “F” will only be given in extenuating circumstances.

Letter Grade: Dance Minors will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D) indicative of their attendance, skill and improvement throughout the semester. (Note that these factors are directly correlated; good attendance leads to improvement and success.)

Attendance Policy & Make-Up Classes:

Classes begin promptly, typically with a warm-up. Accordingly, arriving more than 10 minutes late jeopardizes full immersion in the lesson. Students entering class beyond that time may not receive credit for the day. Please come on time and ready to dance.

Students are expected to adhere strictly to the BU Dance Department's attendance policy. Students must have 85% attendance and are allowed no more than 4 absences per semester, medical and family emergencies notwithstanding (instructor may excuse 2 more absences). Full participation for the entire class is expected from all students; injured students may receive credit for observing class. Students who will be missing class, arriving late or leaving early for any reason should please notify instructor in advance.

Standard Make-Up Options:

- Attend other credit dance classes taught by your instructor.
- Attend other credit dance classes after receiving permission from instructor.
- Attend dance performances approved by your instructor.
- Attend free End-of-Semester classes.
- Get written permission from budance@bu.edu to attend non-credit dance class (2 business days' notice; fee required) NOTE: make-ups slips must be signed and provided to instructor or Micki Taylor-Pinney (slips on website).
- Please feel free to ask questions and/or make appointments for consultations with your instructor or with Micki Taylor-Pinney, Director of Dance, at (617) 353-1597 (mtaypin@bu.edu).

Blackboard, FitRec Website & Course Evaluation:

A Blackboard course site may be available for this class online at <http://www.learn.bu.edu> and can be accessed by entering your BU username and password. All students enrolled in this class should have access to this site, even if your school does not use Blackboard. This site will give you access to the course syllabus, any additional content, and allow you to email other students in this class. Emergency cancelations as well as other announcements may also be posted here.

For a detailed explanation of PDP credit class policies, information on registration, or schedules please visit the FitRec's website: <http://www.bu.edu/fitrec/about/physical-education/>

Course evaluations will be sent via email at midterm and at the end of the semester. Please take the time to fill these out – your feedback is very important to us!

Student Conduct:

Boston University's codes of conduct are enforced at the Fitness and Recreation Center at all times. Use of Boston University facilities is a privilege and participants are expected to be good citizens and respect the rights of others. Individuals who engage in unacceptable or irresponsible behavior may have their access to the Fitness and Recreation Center revoked or modified indefinitely as determined by the Executive Director of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Students may be subject to further university disciplinary action as outlined in the Boston University Code of Student Responsibilities (www.bu.edu/dos/policies/student-responsibilities).