

THE OXFORD COLLEGE DIVISION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND DANCE
PE 121 Recreational Dance
Spring 2008

Professor: Gayle Doherty
MWF 12:50 – 1:40

Office: Gym 103
Phone: 4-8352

Office Hours
MWF – 9:30 – 10:30
TTH – 10:30 – 11:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is focused on dance as a social and cultural activity. Students practice dances representing a variety of cultures including Argentine, Cuban, Polish, German, Greek, Russian, Israeli, Romanian, Serbian and American. Related topics include the role of dance in human history. Social dance is presented as a path for connection between people who might otherwise have little common ground. Both the value of cultural assimilation and the value of retaining cultural identity are recognized.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Specific written instructional objectives will be provided in advance of each written and practical test.

COURSE GOALS:

- The dances in this class are social. Students should have fun in this class
- Recreational Dance fulfills the lifetime area of the Oxford College physical education requirement. At the end of the semester, students should feel confident (and hopefully interested) to continue to study and practice dance as a recreational activity.
- At the end of the semester students should enjoy some improvement in motor skills and should be able to communicate dance movements to a partner without speaking.
- At the end of the semester students should be more knowledgeable of dance as an expression of culture and of the role dance has played in human history.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM:

A = 89.9 - 100 B = 79.9 - 90 C = 69.9 – 80 D = 59.9 - 60 F = Below 59.5

- 5% Interview and Written report – students will conduct an interview with someone from another cultural background and write a report of their responses and the students own responses to a series of questions. Students will be given the opportunity to help create the list of questions.
- 15% Midterm: A written exam covering all handouts, reading assignments and materials discussed in class before midterm
- 20% Practical 1: An evaluation of the performance of assigned folk dances (this test will be videotaped)
- 15% Final: A written exam covering all handouts, reading assignments and materials discussed in class after midterm
- 10% Practical 2: An evaluation of the performance of assigned ballroom dances while dancing alone (this test will be videotaped)
- 10% Practical 3: An evaluation of the performance of assigned ballroom dances while dancing with a partner (this test will be videotaped)
- 25% Participation: An evaluation of daily participation throughout the semester
*** See attached attendance and participation policy ***

The Oxford College Honor Code applies and is respected in this class. All work must be submitted truthfully and must be each student's own work. When working with a group in a dance skills test, following others is not cheating because you will be expected to work together.

TEXT:

Assigned readings are available on electronic reserve. Some test materials will be given in the form of handouts and class instruction. The course syllabus, calendar and all other handouts for this course are posted on the class conference on LearnLink. Students are responsible for reading announcements made on this conference. If you have trouble accessing any of this information please let me know.

DRESS: Clothing should be nonrestrictive and appropriate for the classroom (no pajamas). Shoes are not permitted on the dance floor but socks may be worn.

Williams Hall:

Food and drinks, other than water, are not permitted in Williams Hall. Street shoes are not permitted on the dance floor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Oxford College does not offer distance learning classes. Your physical presence is an expectation. You are responsible for what is covered in every class. Three absences are permitted without penalty. In case of a minor illness a sedentary assignment will be available for you to do in class. If this is necessary beyond one class you should make an appointment to discuss your situation with me.

LATE ARRIVALS: It is expected that students will arrive for class on time. Late absences will be recorded as such and, if excessive, will result in a grade penalty. Three late arrivals will be considered excessive and will count as an absence.

CLASS DISRUPTIONS: Common courtesy is an expectation. Anyone who disrupts class in any way may be asked to leave and will subsequently be counted absent.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Religious holidays approved by the college may be observed without penalty but I must be informed of your intention to do so in writing and in advance of the holiday.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: Regarding your attendance grade (25%), if you find yourself in an extenuating circumstance, it is your responsibility to make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your situation. I will expect you to provide a complete record of **all** of your absences (**dates and reasons**). **All** absences should be for valid reasons. **There are no excused absences beyond the 3 that are provided** but make-up work may be offered at my discretion. The amount of time it takes for you to initiate this meeting and your ability to present your attendance record will be a consideration in my decision to offer make-up work or not.

ADAPTED SYLLABUS: If you have a physical situation that requires an adapted syllabus, it is essential that you immediately provide specific information from a medical professional explaining what activities are prohibited and what you are still physically able to do. Information can be faxed to me (Gayle Doherty) at 770 784-4677. All faxed information goes to the office of our administrative assistant. If your information is confidential have your health care provider attach a cover sheet that states that is confidential.

PARTICIPATION GRADE:

25% of your grade will be based on participation. Students who do not miss more than 3 classes will receive the full 25 points for attendance. Those who miss more than three (3) classes will receive grade penalties based on the following:

4 absences	5 point penalty	25 – 5 = 20 out of 25 pts (can make an A)
5 absences	15 point penalty	25 – 15 = 10 out of 25 pts (can make a B)
6 absences	25 point penalty	25 - 25 = 0 out of 25 pts (can make a C)
7 or more absences		Will make a D or F in the course

