

PE 122 Beginning Tennis
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Dr. Penelope England

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Office Hours: MW 11:30 - noon; 1:00 – 2; 3:30 - 4. TTH 10 – 11:30; **and by appointment**

Roll is taken at 1 p.m. Class is dismissed at 2:15. If the courts are wet at class time, we will meet in the South Gymnasium (dress for activity).

Physical activities for this class include vigorous movement. Whenever there is a medical condition that would cause you undue risk or prevent your full participation in this class, it is your responsibility to inform me immediately. If you have a chronic condition which limits your potential for fulfilling the requirements for this class, have your physician FAX a letter stating what you cannot do and her/his recommendations for physical activities you can use to achieve the goals of this course.

Course Objectives:

1. Enjoy playing the game of tennis
2. Develop basic groundstrokes and serve
3. Understand and use the rules and scoring of tennis, its courtesies and conventions through playing elementary singles and doubles games
4. Develop the ability to move to the ball with confidence and return the ball over the net consistently
5. Develop relaxation techniques for managing the pressure and frustration associated with learning/improving tennis skills.

Course Activities: Ball machine drills and court drills for practicing forehand, backhand, and serve; game play for practicing strategy, courtesies and conventions of league tennis (USTA & ALTA). **Note**—this is a beginning tennis class. The Oxford College Catalog states **“Intermediate/advanced players (those above 2.5 USTA rating) should not take this course. Those who do may be subject to intermediate/advanced grading standards at the discretion of the instructor.”**

Text: There is no text for this course. Course materials for written tests will be provided as handouts or in Blackboard.

Equipment: Provide your own tennis racket and **tennis shoes**. Other kinds of shoes will not be permitted on the court; therefore if you wear other kinds of shoes your grade can be penalized since you are not prepared to participate in class.

Blackboard: Check for announcements prior to class time. Course written materials will be there, along with video analysis of basic tennis skills.

Help Sessions: Most days I will be able to stay for thirty minutes after class so you can use the ball machine and I can offer help.

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on:

Tennis skills: 30% Video Analyses: 10%

Game Play: 30% Written tests: 20%

Participation 10%

Grading Scale: **A – 90 – 100**
 B – 80 – 89.9
 C – 70 – 79.9
 D – 60 – 69.9
 F - < 60
 no plus or minus scale

Written tests – (20%)

Thursday Oct. 8 Test 1 covers stroke and serve techniques;

Tuesday Nov. 24 Test II covers rules, elementary strategy, and courtesies and conventions.

Video Analyses – Due Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Compare how your tennis stroke compares to the stroke of the player in the video on Blackboard. Base your analysis on the “Power/Control” handout. **(10%)**

Game play –

Each class day you will be evaluated on your “game”: effort to hit as many balls in class as possible, and your effort to also help others hit as many balls in class as possible. **This means keeping the ball in play whether you are practicing tennis skills or playing actual games. (10%)**

Outside of class, play one complete doubles match no later than the beginning of class **Thursday, Dec. 3**. At that time, turn in the names of the partners, the serving order and receiving positions for each set, and the final match score (as it would be reported to a tournament director).
(10%)

In Class Doubles Play –

A.

The class will be divided into groups for doubles. Your responsibility is to assure that each person in your group is able to make a grade of A during testing on part B. below.

B.

You will play **TIE-BREAKS** doubles. You must demonstrate that you know how to keep score, that you know the rules, courtesies, and conventions of the doubles game. In addition, you will demonstrate that you understand the basic strategy in doubles:

Beginners – return most shots over the net. **Intermediates** – same as beginner and keep the ball away from the net player and hit most shots crosscourt. **Advanced** – same as beginner and intermediate plus use good form on the first serve and play aggressive net. **Everyone** – Support your partner, respect your opponent and yourself.

Scoring: You can earn no higher than a B if you double fault. You can earn no higher than a C if you hit three balls (volley or ground stroke) into the net. **(10%)**

Tennis Skill Tests -

Each of these skills tests may be taken more than one time (conditions permitting). The score used to calculate your grade will be the highest score you make on any one of the tests. Other scores on the same test will be eliminated. Exceptions to this are the serve and doubles tests. Those test grades will be averaged.

Groundstrokes Form –You will return 7 balls delivered by the ball machine, instructor, or a qualified student. The first two balls are practice. The next five are your test. You will return two forehands, two backhands, and the fifth return will be your choice. Your returns must be over the net, inside the singles court, and must demonstrate good stroke mechanics. Returns that

hit the net and go over the net and land inside the singles court are considered good. **(10%)**

Scoring: 5 = 100; 4 = 95; 3 = 85; 2 = 75; 1 = 65;; 0 = 40

Serve Testing

Part I – While you are playing **TIE-BREAKS** in doubles, your serve will be evaluated. The purpose of the serve for EVERYONE is to begin the point. Therefore you must learn a second serve that will go in consistently.

Beginners – second serve will be evaluated on whether it goes in consistently; **Intermediates** – will be graded on a second serve that goes in consistently with depth; **Advanced** – will be graded on a second serve that is consistent and deep with pace. **(10%)**

Part 2 - Beginning in the deuce court, serve five (5) second serves, alternating courts (as when playing a game). Fifth serve may be served to either service court. Your score on Part 2 may affect your score on Part 1

Scoring: 5 = 100; 4 = 95; 3 = 85; 2 = 75; 1 = 65; 0 = 40 **(10%)**

***** All tests must be taken on the announced date of the test. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND TESTS THAT ARE NOT TAKEN ON TEST DAY WILL NOT BE MADE-UP.** If you are going to be absent on assignment due dates or test days, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with Dr. England before you miss that class.

Grade Appeal Process: If you wish to appeal the final grade you receive in this class you are to put your request to me in writing within 5 days of final grade posting. Your request must address the specific reasons as to why I should re-examine your grade. I will not respond to informal e-mail messages or appeals submitted after the 5 day deadline.

Class Participation and Contribution:

In order to pass this course you must actively participate and contribute during each class meeting. Since I teach you as individuals, when I am working with other students I expect you to be practicing the **skills on which you need most practice**. I expect you to encourage and help each other. Each of you will learn at a different rate. Once you have mastered a skill, I expect you to help others learn it. **(10%)**

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.

Missing more than two classes will result in a **5-point reduction** in your grade **for each additional absence. THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR THIS CLASS BEYOND THE TWO THAT ARE PROVIDED.** MAKE UP work MAY BE PROVIDED at my discretion if you provide acceptable medical documentation or you make **prior arrangements** with me regarding an exceptional circumstance. It is important that you email me BEFORE any absence occurs. If you email me after an absence occurs, do so before the next class meeting. If LearnLink is down, you may leave a voice message (4-8350) instead. These emails or messages are only informative. If you believe you have justification for an absence to be excused you must discuss this with me in person and authentic documentation must be provided. It is your responsibility to make an appointment with me and to provide a written record of all of your absences **(dates and reasons)**. **All** absences should be for valid reasons. At that meeting we will decide whether make up work or penalty reduction is justified. There will be no exceptions. **If you miss three consecutive days it is my responsibility to report your name to the Office of Academic Services. **If you accumulate a total of six absences your final grade will be an "F"**

Come to class! Even if you do not feel well enough to participate you will watch your classmates and make notes giving helpful advice to a list of students that you observe that day. That way your grade will not be penalized.

There will be NO MAKE UPS for written work or skills tests unless you have medical documentation or you make prior arrangements with me regarding an exceptional circumstance.

It is expected that you arrive for class on time. Every third time you are late (not in class when I call roll) you will be penalized an absence. You are expected to be on the courts with racket, tennis shoes and tennis attire ready to participate when I call roll. If you are late, you must see me **at the end of that class** to remind me to change your absence to a late. If you do not, **you may be counted absent even when you were in class.**

Dress Code: You must provide your own tennis racket. Athletic shorts, shirts and tennis shoes are required. **Shoes must be smooth-soled, and must not make marks on the court. Running shoes are not safe for tennis and are not permitted.** You may not wear blue jeans or other street clothes unsuited to athletic endeavor. Shirts must be worn at all times. Failure to wear the required attire will result in an absence.

Additional Important Information:

Reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities: If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, physical activity, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services (404.727-6016) with questions about such services. It is the student's responsibility to initiate considerations; all students must self-disclose to ODS and complete the registration process. Students with identified or suspected writing disabilities of any kind should contact the Writing Center.

Reminder: Class activities may include vigorous physical activity. If you have any medical condition or physical problems to prevent you from full participation in such activity, it is your responsibility to inform me of its nature and provide documentation from your physician stating 1) the medical condition, 2) limitations of the condition, and 3) recommendations that would help you meet the requirements of the course. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services (404.727-6016).

Banned Materials: PDAs, cell phones, or any other items that could distract the student, other students, or the instructor must be **turned off** during class. *If you have a need to have a cell phone on, please let me know. Otherwise, if I become aware of the phone, you will be asked to leave class and will receive an absence.*

Learnlink: I will read and answer e-mail only between 6 and 8 a.m. each class day. If you need to communicate with me at other times, leave a voice message on my office phone (770/784-8350).

HONOR CODE: Article 2.A "A student's signature on a paper or test submitted for credit shall indicate he or she has neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, nor has condoned the giving or receiving of unauthorized information by others." I expect that you will have read the Honor Code and that you will abide by its dictates.

Whenever you take a written test or skills test for this class you are under dictates of the Honor Code Any violation of the HONOR CODE will not be tolerated. If you have questions regarding my expectations, do not hesitate to ask. Ignorance will not be an acceptable plea.

Please see <http://www.college.emory.edu/students/honor.html>

"Be bold. If you're going to make an error, make it a doozy; and don't be afraid to hit the ball."

Billie Jean King