

Course Title: Beginning Tennis, Fall, 2003

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Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:00; 3:30-4 TTH 9:30-10; 2:30-3:30

COURSE DESIGN: This is a course for those students who have never received formal instruction in the fundamentals of the game. It is designed to introduce basic tennis skills and knowledge. Those who already play tennis are strongly discouraged from taking this course as their presence is very disconcerting to beginning students. If you choose to take this course even though you are experienced you will be expected to help the beginners. Also, you will be expected to improve your own skills more independently of the instructor.

COURSE GOALS:

1. The student will develop the basic form and mechanics of the beginning topspin forehand and topspin backhand groundstrokes, and the beginning slice serve;
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of scoring and rules and basic match play in singles and doubles;
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of tennis conventions and courtesies.
4. The student will demonstrate a consistent understanding of two important principles for effective tennis play: 1) the ball must go over the net and 2) each ball must be chased with full effort

Physical activities for this class include mild to vigorous movement in very hot weather. Whenever there is medical condition which would cause you undue risk or prevent your full participation in such activity, 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 (770/784-4677) a letter stating what you cannot do and) recommendations for physical activities you can use to achieve the objectives of this course as listed above.

COURSE TEXT: There is no text for this course. Resource material will be given in class handouts

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Written Work:

100 points Written test I Sept. 16

100 points Written test II Oct. 7

Skills—Each of these skills tests may be taken more than one time (weather and other conditions permitting). The score used to calculate your final grade will be the highest score you make on any one of the tests. The rest of your scores will be eliminated.

Forehand and Backhand Groundstroke Test: The test on which your score is

higher will be counted twice (after you've taken both groundstroke tests).

Hit four consecutive forehands/backhands, demonstrating good form, from near your baseline to between the baseline and the fence on the other side of the net. One legal hit = 75 points; two consecutive legal hits = 85; three consecutive hits = 95; four consecutive legal hits = **100**. Taking a groundstroke test with zero legal hits earns 40 points.

Serve Test

Legally serve three points. If the first serve is faulted, a second serve is awarded. Serve the first point to the deuce court; second point to the ad court, third point to the court of your choice. If all three first serves are good, you score **100** points. If you use second serve(s) but serve three good serves, you score 95 points. If you serve two good serves, your score is 85; if you serve one good serve, your score is 75. Taking the test, but serving zero serves earns 40 points.

Doubles Play

You will play tie breaks against several different opponents and/or partners so that you can demonstrate your knowledge of doubles convention and courtesy, rules, scoring, and strategy. Whether you are playing, you are expected to know the score and where to stand at the beginning of the point and you are expected to know the appropriate strategy to employ for the situation. You may earn up to **200** points. While you are playing doubles, you will be graded on your service form. Up to **100** points can be added to your class participation grade, based on your service form and mechanics.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION You may earn up to **100** points (points you can earn by serving in good form will be added to these).

In order to earn these points you must actively participate and contribute during each class meeting. Learning and playing tennis requires a partner. Be a supportive partner as well as improve your own game. Use class time effectively and help others benefit from this time. Demonstrate that you are making full effort to utilize the techniques and advice you are being given by your instructor. Show that you understand the principles of good form and mechanics. Consistently practice appropriate conventions and courtesies of playing tennis. Practice the safety rules of tennis. When I speak to you individually about any of these I am suggesting that you be more attentive to this aspect of your class participation and contribution grade.

Throughout the semester, there may be “unannounced” quizzes and one minute papers. These ungraded quizzes will be practice for the two written tests. Occasionally, you will write one minute (on a note card) at the beginning or end of class. I will ask you to give your thoughts about a matter or question. If you are absent when these are given, your participation grade is negatively affected, in addition to penalty for any overcut.

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 are only informative. They do not excuse any absence. If you believe you have justification for an absence to be excused you must meet with me. At that meeting we will decide whether make up work or penalty reduction is justified.

COME TO CLASS! If you do not feel well enough to physically participate, there are other ways you can contribute so that your grade will not be penalized. There are **NO MAKE UPS FOR WRITTEN WORK OR SKILLS TESTS** without medical

documentation except in very unusual circumstances. I will not alter grading standards without such documentation.

ABSENCE POLICY

Missing more than two classes will result in point reduction in your final grade for each overcut.

three absences = 50 point penalty (possible, but difficult to make A)
four absences = 150 point penalty (possible, but difficult to make B)
five absences = 250 point penalty (possible, but difficult to make C)
more than five absences = student will most likely make an F

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. They do not excuse any absence. Religious holidays are excused provided 1) you inform me in writing of your observance of the religious holiday in advance of the holiday.

If you believe you have justification for overcuts to be excused you must meet with me. I will want to know how you have used each of your previous absences. At that meeting we will decide whether make up work or penalty reduction is justified. **COME TO CLASS!** If you do not feel well enough to physically participate, there are other ways you can contribute so that your grade will not be penalized. There are **NO MAKE UPS FOR WRITTEN WORK OR SKILLS TESTS** without medical documentation except in very unusual circumstances. I cannot legally adapt grading standards without such documentation.

GRADING SCALE: no plus/minus scale

A = 900-1000
B = 800-890
C = 700-790
D = 600-690
F = < 600

DRESS CODE: Athletic shorts, shirts and tennis shoes are required. Shoes must be smooth-soled, must not make marks on the court, and must be approved by the instructor. Running shoes, street clothes, and jeans are not permitted. It is important that you dress so you will be comfortable regardless of weather conditions. Shirts must be worn at all times. Failure to wear required attire will result in an absence.

EQUIPMENT: Each student must provide a tennis racquet and writing implement **EACH CLASS MEETING**. Failure to bring these to class will result in an absence. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and water bottle are also suggested.

ATTENDANCE: **You are responsible for initialing the roll AS SOON AS YOU**

ARRIVE IN CLASS. If you are late, I will have marked an X in your box. Indicate your presence by placing **THE DATE** in a “tardy box.” Three (3) tardies will be equivalent to one absence.

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE: All students are required to read and sign the Agreement to Participate Form prior to the first day of activity.

THE OXFORD COLLEGE STUDENT 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.”

On the practical tests in this class you are expected to perform independently of those around you. Simply by taking the practical test, you are indicating that you need no prompting from others and are performing independently.

Web Site: www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CLASS/England/beginningtennis.htm You will find material that is pertinent for learning the skills required for this class. Read it carefully and watch the video demonstrations often. You can use the scroll bars under each video to capture the movement in slow motion. Please let me know if you have questions.