

**BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE**  
**Department of Dance**

Student Syllabus for Dance 235  
Tap Dance Technique 1

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
BYU Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ and by appointment

**1. Catalog Course Description:**

The focus of this course is to teach students the fundamentals of tap technique, improvisation and performance at the intermediate level.

**2. Prerequisite(s):**

Dance 135, Tap Dance, Beginning or its equivalent

**3. Course Alignment with University and Program Mission and Aims:**

This course is in correlation with the AIMS document of a BYU education which is: 1) spiritually strengthening, 2) intellectually enlarging, and 3) character building leading to 4) life long service and learning.

**4. Required Course Materials:**

*“Tap Dance Fundamentals”* by Colleen West, located in the BYU Bookstore.

**5. Course Intended Learning Outcomes:**

- intermediate level tap dance technique and theory
- coordination, motor memory, fine and gross motor skills
- correct alignment, placement and weight shifts
- a movement vocabulary using correct terminology in written and oral communication
- rhythmic awareness, clarity and sensitivity to tempos
- musicality savvy
- improvisational skills which enhance critical/creative thinking, and risk-taking
- a kinesthetic perception and concentration in order to self-evaluate and self-correct
- refine performance skills
- strength and stamina
- an aesthetic, cultural and historical value of tap dance
- a knowledge of various professional tap artists/style through video viewing, assigned readings and class discussion
- methods of notation of tap steps and rhythms

\* Students will review the Shim Sham Shimmy and may learn the second version of the Shim Sham, the BS Chorus, Honi Coles Stroll or other traditional/historical tap dances.

## 6. Learning Activities/Course Requirement:

### Technique:

- 4-7 ct riff walks, 3rds (open and closed), wings, pullbacks (basic, syncopated), maxi ford with pick-up, paddle & roll combinations, drawbacks, turns across the floor, cramp rolls (P.C.R., ATW, R.C.R., C.R.turns) time steps (hooper's traveling, and many varieties), chaine, Cincinnati, five-point turns, riffle, toe stand, boomershay variations and other combinations of steps.
- technique alignment, weight shifts; taught using a variety of music
- discussion of history, rhythm analysis, style
- improvisational exercises
- perform in front of peers - discussion about qualities of performance
- video viewing of various styles of tap dancing
- practice notating various combinations
- elevating each other's techniques style
- attendance at dance concert

## 7. Assessment Procedures:

### Grading Formula

#### Technique: 90%

- three evaluations on technique, rhythm, performance, style, and improvisation (30% each)

#### Citizenship: 10%

- active participation in class
- a written quiz on tap terminology and historical facts about tap dance
- video viewing of various tap artists' technique/style/performance (at the Learning Resource Center located in the SFH)
- participation in a spiritual thought given at the beginning of each class
- attendance at World of Dance Concert

\* The final exam will be given during "finals" week as scheduled by the university. There are no exceptions to take the final at an earlier time.

\*A letter grade of "B+" or better is required as a final grade in this course to advance to the next level which is D-335.

## 8. Course Policies

### Attendance:

A letter grade (E) will be given if a student's attendance is less than 80% of scheduled classes (including University excused absences). If a student comes to class after roll has been taken, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor. **Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late to class will have their attendance recorded as an absence.**

### Attire:

**Tap shoes:** Only non suede, low heel, leather shoes, with a sturdy sole (no jazz or character shoes) The student is responsible for checking loose screws in his/her taps that may cause damage to the floor. Rubber skids to prevent slipping.

**Dress:** (BYU Code of Honor and Dress and Grooming Standards)

Modest dance attire, or everyday wear. Pants should be of a length where the feet can be seen.

Please do not wear warm clothing such as sweaters to class.

**Questions or Problems:**

Please contact your instructor or the Tap Dance Program Coordinator, Colleen West, Office 282 RB, Phone: 422-3104.

## **9. University Policies**

**Preventing Sexual Harassment:**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or visit the website at <http://www.byu.edu/hr/eo/info.html>.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or visit the website at <http://www.byu.edu/hr/eo/info.html>.

**Church Educational System Honor Code:**

Brigham Young University exists to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That atmosphere is created and preserved through commitment to conduct that reflects those ideals and principles. Observance of such standards is a condition of employment and admission. Those individuals who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are also expected to maintain the same standards of conduct, except church attendance. If you have any concerns, please contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2848. For more information on the following related topics, visit the Honor Code office website at [http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor\\_code.htm](http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm)

- Be honest
- Live a chaste and virtuous life
- Obey the law and all campus policies
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse
- Observe Dress and Grooming Standards
- Participate regularly in church services
- Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the BYU Honor Code
- Academic Honesty
- Dress and Grooming Standards