

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Division of Theatre and Dance**  
**Dance Program – Fall 2007**

**DNC 126.06 TAP I**  
**(2 credit hours)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Heather Samuelson  
**Office:** AB3 Bldg, Room #214  
**Office Hours:** By appointment or see schedule on office door  
**Telephone:** 936-294-3342  
**Email:** stdclf13@shsu.edu  
**Class Time:** MWF, 9:00-9:50 a.m.  
**Class Location:** AB3 Bldg., Room #110

**Course Objectives:**

To introduce the principles of tap as a discipline, establishing a basic knowledge of rhythm, meter, timing, and syncopation, which will then be combined into standard combinations as well as original patterns.

**Attire:**

Tap shoes

**Attendance Policy:**

Due to the nature of the course, attendance is mandatory. Three absences will not affect your grade. Each absence in excess of three (3) absences lowers your grade one letter. Three tardies will be treated as one absence. A student who is more than 10 minutes late to class will not be allowed to participate, counting as an absence.

**Grading Policy:**

The probable breakdown of percentages used to calculate grades:

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Attendance, Attitude, Focus  | 20% |
| 2. Written / Oral Report        | 10% |
| 3. Technical Proficiency        | 20% |
| 4. Midterm / Skills Evaluations | 20% |
| 5. Final Project                | 30% |

**Course Format:**

The dancer's education is a process of tuning his/her entire system in an integrated way. The dancer must not only develop the physiological properties required by the dance, but simultaneously develop an understanding of the style, nuance, and expression of the art form.

Individual dancers have distinct periods of readiness for development in any given area. It is the objective of the course format to provide an environment in which each dancer can efficiently fulfill their potential, both physiologically and artistically.

The typical format for each class will include:

1. Initial warm-up at barre and center developing strength, coordination, speed, and clarity of execution

- toe taps / double toe taps
  - brushes / shuffles
  - flaps
  - cramp rolls
  - riffs
2. Combinations of steps to develop fluidity, timing, and style.
  3. Combinations that travel through space emphasizing syncopation.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

### **Classroom Rules of Conduct**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### **Visitor(s) to the Classroom**

Advance approval is required by the instructor. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If a visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

### **Americans with Disability Act**

It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720).

A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

### **Religious Holy Days Policy**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a

religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University Policy 861001 provides procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester or the first 7 days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will respond to the student in writing notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.