

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
TECHNIQUE AND THEORY OF FOLK, SQUARE, AND BALLROOM DANCE
KSS 2220

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Jeanna McFarland

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m to 10:30 a.m
Other appointments by arrangement
Office hours and schedule are posted on my office door.
Mailbox is located in room 1110 McAfee

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves participation in and analysis of the basic techniques and skills of folk, square, and ballroom dance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To learn basic techniques, skills, and knowledge of folk, square, and ballroom dance.
2. To develop an appreciation of ethnic music and dance.
3. To develop a greater sense and understanding of rhythm.
4. To enable the prospective teacher to diagnose and to correct common dance faults and problems, and practice teaching skills such as cueing.
5. To improve one's grace, agility, balance, coordination, and creativity.
6. To gain practical experience in teaching dance.

COURSE CONTENT:

1. Folk Dance: Students will analyze the basic loco-motor movements, dance step patterns, dance positions, and dance formations while learning and performing a variety of folk dances.
2. Square Dance: Students will analyze and perform square dance calls.
3. Ballroom Dance: Students will analyze and perform the basic steps of various ballroom styles while learning the basics of leading and following.
4. Teaching Skills: Students will practice cueing in a variety of situations, analyze and learn dances from written instructions, choose music for different dances, and teach and assist peers in class.

GRADING PLAN/EVALUATION:

Attendance and class participation – 25%

The final grade can be no higher than the number of absences but the number of absences is not necessarily the final grade. The student is allowed two (2) absences, which should be saved for an emergency. After 2 the grade goes down one letter with each additional absence. Two (2) absences can still be an A; three (3) absences would be a B; four (4) absences a C; five (5) absences a D; and six (6) absences is an automatic failure.

Students are required to participate in all class activities on a daily basis. Attendance without participation equals half an absence. Unexcused absences may not be made up. To receive credit for a “university excused absence” or an “instructor excused absence”, a student may be required to do an outside assignment. This is at the discretion of the instructor.

Written tests and assignments – 25%

Movement skills – 25%

Teaching skills – 25%

TEXTBOOK: Harris, Pittman, Waller, and Dark. *Dance A While*

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE: In case of emergency evacuation the class will either go to an inside hallway of McAfee for a tornado or meet in the grassy area by Blair Hall.

OTHER:

1. No shoes are allowed on the dance floor. Shoes must come off at the door. There may be times when the student is required to remove their socks and dance barefoot.
2. No gum.
3. No hats, men or women.
4. No food or drinks except water, which must be in a non-glass water bottle.
5. Do not be late. Be ready to dance at the top of the hour. Two (2) times being late and not ready to dance equals an absence. If you are 10 minutes or more late to class it will be considered an absence for the day.
6. Any assignment not turned in at the beginning of class the day it is due is automatically one letter grade down. It will continue to go down one letter grade every 24 hours. No assignment is accepted late or on line.
7. Turn cell phones off before entering the classroom. Water break does not mean a phone break. If you use your phone during class (including water breaks) it will be an automatic absence for the day. If there is a family emergency and you need to keep your phone on, keep it on vibrate. Let me know before class starts that there is an emergency and that you need to keep the phone on.
8. Do not play the piano.
9. Students will be assigned days to teach and if they are absent they will receive a failing grade.
10. Appropriate clothing is required. Students who fail to wear appropriate clothing will be asked to leave and will take an absence for the day.

