Mission Statement:
Our mission is to serve as a leading center of Christian thought and action providing an excellent education from a biblical perspective and global context in pivotal professions to equip Christian leaders to change the world.

COURSE SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

THE 775 - MAT
Introduction to Tap
Spring 2010
Location: Film Stage
Friday- 3:00 P.M.-4:50 P.M.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Derek Martin, MFA
Instructor of Theatre

Phone: (757) 352 – 4201

Email: derema1@regent.edu

Office Hours:
Monday: 1:00pm-4:00pm
Tuesday: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Office Location: Com 223

All students are required to read and have a thorough understanding of the syllabus. Any questions or concerns need to be addressed to the instructor.
**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Tap dance is designed to provide students with the ability to understand, assimilate, and perform Tap Dancing and its various styles with confidence at the beginner-intermediate level of Tap. Students will learn all of the most common steps of basic Broadway and Rhythm tap, learn to put them in sequence, choreograph on their own, improvise, and learn choreography. **Attendance is mandatory!!!**

**RATIONALE/COURSE OVERVIEW**

Instructor’s Philosophy:

Students must be present at all classes in order to gain the full benefits of the class. Personal and collective success will be, to a great extent, contingent upon growing with each other and experiencing Tap together; therefore you must be present and fully participate. Because of the limited time and the amount of material to cover, we really must push forward with no little speed and determination.

This course assumes the student will be working at home, to one degree or another, everyday. Tap is very pedestrian, practice can take place anywhere in any type of shoe. I encourage this; different shoes feel and sound different, so please tap a lot and practice as much as possible, and you will reap tremendous benefits. I also ask that students keep an open mind; your body may feel uncomfortable at times. Be tenacious. Keep practicing and you will get the steps. Last but not least, this class is intended to be an enjoyable and fun experience, so keep your sense of humor and let’s have a good time.

Statement on faith and learning:

We will discuss, through the history of tap and the practice of it, its greater spiritual significance and faith-related contexts. Though primarily a technique oriented course, it is my personal conviction that God is pleased when we work to improve ourselves so as to make better use the talents He has gifted us with to His glory. Dance is often positively referenced in the bible and referred to as an acceptable means of expressing joy, praise and thanksgiving to God (we see a wonderful example of this in King David). We should treat this art form as another means to praise and worship the Maker who has blessed us with our gifts.

**PREREQUISITES (NOTE: use only as needed)**

- No Prerequisites

**THEATRE PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- Students will be introduced to basic Christian aesthetic principles so as to prepare them to view and participate in theatre from a faith-based perspective.
- Students will acquire basic competence in acting, speech, play analysis, and design technology.
- Students will acquire a basic understanding of theatre history and literature.
- Students will function satisfactorily in a variety of roles involved in theatre production.
- Students will be able to make informed assessments of quality in works of theatre.
INTRODUCTION TO TAP OUTCOMES

- **The Student will be able to competently execute a normative range of common tap steps**
  - This will be evident in their daily participation and growth within the class and by the execution of choreography presented by the instructor.

- **The student will be able to name those steps and break them down into their component parts**
  - This will be evident by the completion of steps presented in class.

- **The student will have a working knowledge of the historical significance of the steps**
  - This information will be presented to the students by the instructor while they learn the steps.

- **The student will be able to perform two challenging pieces of choreography that include standard steps in combination**
  - These two pieces will be presented by the instructor in class, rehearsed and performed. One will be at mid-term and the other will be at the final.

- **The student will have acquired a competent knowledge of the history of tap and some of its major contributors**
  - This will be evident by a presentation/outline put forward by the student.

- **The student will be able to improvise tap**
  - The student will engage in exercises that promote growth in improvisational abilities.

- **The student will be able to assimilate tap choreography at a rapid pace**
  - This will be realized by the student’s efficiency in picking up the choreography as we go forward through the semester with the choreography becoming more challenging and taught at a more rapid pace.

Disclaimer: It is an expectation of this class that the student will be able to interpret and understand criticism from instructor and peers and then adopt and/or apply it to their work.

COURSE MATERIALS

**Required Materials:**


**Recommended Materials:**

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

- Students will perform 2 major pieces of Choreography (The Shim sham Shimmy and another piece of the instructor’s choice). Failure to perform on the day that the assignment is due will result in a **complete loss of grade** for that assignment (see evaluation and grading below).
- Students will create their own pieces of choreography (Time Steps and 4 bar choreo) failure to present the choreography on the day it is due will result in a **complete loss of grade** (see evaluation and grading below).
- Students will give a presentation on a tap dancer or tap dance team that the student and teacher will agree on. The student will turn in an outline of their presentation on Blackboard for grading. Failure to complete either one of these on the day that they are due will result in a **complete loss of grade** (see evaluation and grading below).
- Students must attend and participate in all classes and class activities. Participation includes: working on exercises, volunteering in class activities, giving input into class discussions, verbally critiquing classmates and one’s own work. Not participating (see evaluation and grading below) will count as a loss of 10 points per class, tardiness and absences will result in a loss/drop in grade (see attendance policy below).
- Students must wear the appropriate attire and SHOES for this class. Women should try to get 1 and ½ inch character taps for best results and for best use in the business. Clothing must be loose (running clothes, yoga clothes, workout clothing...no jeans/slacks/dresses...etc.) and easy to move in.
- It is expected that all assigned materials will be performed and/or completed on time, failure to do so will result in a loss/drop in grade (see evaluation and grading below).
- Students must take any quiz/test on the day it is assigned, failure to do so will result in a loss/drop in grade (see evaluation and grading below).
- Students are required to rehearse on their own time in order to succeed in this class. If students have a pre-arranged rehearsal and one or more of the students cannot make it, they are required to contact their partners, contact the professor, and re-schedule a rehearsal for that piece of choreography. Failure to do so could result in a loss/drop in grade for that piece of choreography (students could potentially lose all points for the piece of choreography depending on the severity of the offense).
- If there has been an emergency, the student is very ill, or some other act of God that would prevent the student from preparing or participating or being present in class for that day, the student MUST contact the professor **BEFORE CLASS** if at all possible. **This can potentially prohibit a loss/drop in grade.**

**Disclaimer:**

1) This class in considered closed to outsiders. If a student wishes to invite someone to class, they must get both the instructor’s approval and the unanimous approval of the rest of the class. The instructor has the right to approve or disapprove any visitor.

2) If a student needs to borrow any props, furniture or costumes, they must go through the approval process located in the Department of Theatre Arts Handbook in the STUDENT FORMS section of the Regent Theatre Website. A student could potentially lose a grade by not adhering to departmental policies on borrowing costumes, furniture and properties.

**Evaluation and Grading**
Participation 300 points
Full award of 20 points per week of (participation, based on a pass/fail model)

Your Own Time Steps 100 points
-points based on pass/fail model. 50 points for quality of work (eg- creativity, clarity of sound, consistency of rhythm, etc.)

4 Bar Choreography 100 points
-points based on pass/fail model. 50 points for quality of work (eg- creativity, clarity of sound, consistency of rhythm, etc.)

Presentation on Famous Tap Dancers 100 points
-points based on a pass/fail model.
50 points for the presentation and quality of work (eg- research, delivery, relevance, well-supported, cogent presentation)
-50 points for outline and quality of work (eg- research, delivery, relevance, well-supported, cogent presentation)

Mid Term-Shim Sham Shimmy 200 points
-points based on a pass/fail model. 100 points for quality of work (eg- clarity, accuracy, sell, consistency, etc.)

Choreography of Instructor’s choice 200 points
-points based on a pass/fail model. 100 points for quality of work (eg- clarity, accuracy, sell, consistency, etc.)

Total – 1000 points

Note: Pass/Fail model means that if you do the work you will pass, if any work is missing you will fail (you may also have additional criteria added to the pass/fail model that could affect your grade, PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS THOROUGHLY to discover all criteria) AND if anything is passed in after the due date, AT LEAST HALF of the point value of the project will be deducted.

Graduate Scale

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COURSE SCHEDULE (WEEK-BY-WEEK)

1/7- Intro
   Read through Syllabus
   What Tap is
   Making improvised sounds with feet
   Warm up
   Definitions and moves- Step, Touch, Stomp, Stamp, Brush, Spank, Flap, Slap, Hop, Jump and exercises to incorporate them
   Improv Ending

1/14- Warm up
   Quick Review
   Definitions and moves- Shuffle, Ball-Change, Scuff, Dig, Paddle, Roll, Paddle-roll, Toe drop, heel drop, crawl, punch
   Intro to Rhythm tap
   Choreo: Begin the Shim Sham Shimmy
   Improv Ending

1/21- Warm up
   Quick review
   Definitions and moves- riff (3 and 5 point), chug, Waltz Clog, Maxie Ford, Cramroll, Tack Annie, Basic Essences and the soft shoe
   Choreo: Shim Sham Shimmy
   Improv Ending

1/28- Warm up
Quick Review
Definitions and moves- *Shuffle off to Buffalo, Bombershay, Suzie-Q, Drawbacks, Times Square, Rolling shuffles*
Choreo: *Shim Sham Shimmy*
Improv Ending

2/4- Warm Up
Quick review
Definitions and Moves- *The Time Step* Single, Double, Triple, w/pickups
Choreo: Finish the - *Shim Sham Shimmy*
Improv Ending-Call and Answer

2/11- Talk about **10 minute presentations on famous tap dancer**
Warm up
Quick Review
Definitions and Moves- *Time Steps Continued*- Double triple, Military, Rhythm (Basic),
Choreo: **Perform the Shim Sham Shimmy**
Improv Ending-Call and Answer

2/18- Warm Up
Quick Review
Definitions and moves- *Time Steps Continued*- Travelling (Basic), Charleston time step
Choreo: **Begin Final Piece**- “ANYTHING GOES”
Improv Ending-Call and Answer

2/25- Warm Up
Quick Review
Definitions and moves- *Falling off the Log, Riffle and Slurp,*
Homework-**Choreograph your own Time Step**
Improv Ending-Call and Answer
Choreo: **Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**

3/4- **SPRING BREAK**

3/11- Warm Up
Quick Review of all time steps
**Presentation of Your Own Time Steps**
Homework-**Choreography Project**- Come up with your own 3 bars and a break
Choreo: **Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**
Improv Ending- Making the Band

3/18- Warm up
Quick review
Definitions and Moves- **slides and drags, Toe stands**
Choreo: **Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**
Improv ending- Making the Band

3/25 - Warm Ups
Review all steps
**Present Choreography Projects** (3 bars and a break)
Homework- **Choreograph a piece to music** (get together in groups and do it)
Choreo: **Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**

4/1 - **Presentations on the famous Tap Dancers**

4/8 - Warm ups
Review all steps
Choreo: **Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**
Improv ending- Making the Band

4/15 - Warm Ups
Review all steps
Choreo: **Finish Final Piece “ANYTHING GOES”**
Improv Ending- Improv to music

4/29- **FINAL** - Warm Ups
Review: **Final Presentation of Final “ANYTHING GOES”** (2-3 groups)
Improv Ending

**DEPARTMENT RESOURCES**

Department Website: www.regent.edu/acad/schcom/

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

**Incomplete Grades Policy** - Students desiring an incomplete must submit their request to the course instructor and academic dean prior to the end of the term. An incomplete grade will be given in a regular course only for legitimate deficiencies due to illness, emergencies or extraordinary reasons acceptable to the professor, including equipment breakdown or shortages, and not because of neglect on the student’s part. Incompletes require the final approval of the school dean or his/her authorized representative. A regular grade will be given by the instructor if all requirements for the course are submitted by the end of the following academic term. The instructor will submit the new grade to the Registrar’s Office no later than two weeks after the beginning of the subsequent term. If all work is not submitted by the end of the term following the granting of the incomplete, a grade of FX (NP for pass/fail courses) will be posted automatically unless a Request for Extension of Incomplete has been approved and submitted to
the Registrar’s Office. The FX shall be counted as an F in the computation of the GPA. Any student desiring reinstatement to the course after an FX or NP has been posted must register for the course in a subsequent term and pay the full current tuition for the course.

In Progress Grades - In Progress grades shall be given when work is not completed by the end of the term for the following academic work: independent studies, internships, practica, portfolios, theses and dissertations. An IP is also an appropriate grade for courses in which the completion of course requirements for ALL students extends beyond the academic term in which the course is offered. An IP may be continued to a maximum of two terms when the student requests and extension and the approved form is submitted to the Registrar’s Office prior to the end of the first term. If the requirements for removal of the IP grade are not completed by the end of these two terms, a grade of FX (NP for pass/fail courses) will be posted automatically. Exceptions may be made for dissertations, which may continue without penalty. Any student desiring reinstatement to the course after an FX or NP has been posted must register for the course in a subsequent term and pay the full current tuition for the course.

Academic Dishonesty - Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating involve the intention to deceive, mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying representing actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. As such, use of another author’s material must always be properly documented and clearly cited. It is also expected that all work turned in during the semester will be the result of that semester’s scholarship. Academic dishonesty, in any form, may constitute failure of the course. Every student is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship and research.

Attendance - Students are allowed two absences from class for illness and other emergencies with no grade penalty. Three late arrivals count as an absence and you are late the moment after class begins. Subsequent absences lower the student’s final grade by one full letter. If you cannot make it to class, please contact me via email or phone and let me know you will not be coming to class. It is important to try to be there every time you are presenting a scene because if you are absent it will directly affect your partner and if you look at the schedule there are no makeup days. I expect that all students are warming up physically and vocally before class begins, this is a standard part of class. If you have not warmed up, you will be asked to leave and that will count as an absence.

Course Evaluations - Becoming Christian leaders includes learning how to evaluate others by providing honest evaluations that include positive affirmation and constructive feedback, as appropriate. In addition, such evaluation leads to the continual improvement of courses and student learning. Consequently, university policy requires that all students submit a formal student evaluation of teaching form at the end of the academic term. This mandatory requirement must be completed before students will be able to access their final course grade. This form is only available in an online format. Prior to the end of the course, students will receive an e-mail indicating that the form is available. Instructions on accessing the evaluation will be included. Since these evaluations are only available for a limited time, students should complete the evaluation as soon as they receive the e-mail notification that the evaluation form is available. Instructors will not have access to course evaluations until after grades have been submitted and will only have access to anonymous summary data. Students are also encouraged
at any point during the term to offer comments that may be helpful to the improvement or refinement of the course. Students can access the online evaluation system at: [http://eval.regent.edu/regentsurvey/students.cfm](http://eval.regent.edu/regentsurvey/students.cfm). If you have questions about the online evaluation please contact evaluation@regent.edu

*Please review the following links for important information on University policies:*

- Academic Calendar/Registrar Information
- Bookstore
- Honor/Plagiarism Policy
- Regent Library
- Student Services (includes links to student handbook, disability services, University calendar, University Writing Center, etc.)
- Technical Support – University Helpdesk
- Disability Statement – the student is responsible for contacting the assistant director of Student Services at 757.352.4486 to request accommodations, provide necessary documentation, and make arrangement with each instructor. The following website is designed to help our disabled students learn of their rights and responsibilities with regard to disability services. The site also has resources for faculty to become better informed of their responsibilities toward the disabled students in their classes. [www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_life/disabilities.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_life/disabilities.cfm)

Last Updated: 11/19/2010

*At times, due to unforeseen circumstances, course content may be subject to change. Please check with your professor to insure you have the most recently updated Syllabus for this course.*

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You must sign, date and put the name of the class on this sheet and return it to the professor. Initialing this sheet binds the contract between you and the University saying that you have read and understood the expectations and policies put forth in this syllabus.