

**DAN 2110 – Intermediate/Advanced Tap**  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:15-1:15pm Parlor Theatre

**Instructor:** Ashley Hyers (home 299-0608, cell 908-0028, [ahyers@gborocollege.edu](mailto:ahyers@gborocollege.edu) )

**Course Description:** This course focuses on intermediate/advanced tap technique and vocabulary as well as the history of tap. Students will learn both rhythm and jazz tap techniques.

**Attendance policy:** Your attendance is expected and required. If you are injured or sick, you must come to class if possible and turn in written observations of the class. If you are running a high fever or vomiting, please do not come to class. However, you must let me know in writing that you are sick. Conferences and school events will be excused if you let me know at the beginning of the semester. You are responsible for all work covered in class – even if you are absent. **Unexcused absences will result in lowering your final grade by half of a letter grade for each unexcused absence.** Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you are not dressed and ready to move when warm-up starts, you are tardy. **Tardies will result in lowering your final grade 2 points for each tardy.**

**Dress Code:**

Please wear clothes you are comfortable moving, stretching, bending and twisting while wearing. Fitted, “stretchy” clothing is ideal – nothing overly baggy or skimpy. Dance, exercise, or yoga attire is preferred. No pants that fall below the ankle will be allowed.

Tap shoes.

No hats or head coverings allowed in class.

**Class etiquette:**

No cell phones in class.

No gum, food or drinks in class – water in bottles only.

No talking among the students during explorations and presentations.

Please come to class bathed and in clean clothes. Because we will work in close proximity of one another, your personal hygiene is an important factor.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

The following criteria will apply to all graded work:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| A+ = 98-100  | C+ = 78-79.9 |
| A = 93-97.9  | C = 73-77.9  |
| A- = 90-92.9 | C- = 70-72.9 |
| B+ = 88-89.9 | D+ = 68-69.9 |
| B = 83-87.9  | D = 63-67.9  |
| B- = 80-82.9 | D- = 60-62.9 |
|              | F = Below 60 |

A = excellence, striving for the best at all times and demonstrating exceptional growth

B = good, showing dedication and consistent work habits and demonstrating increased accomplishment of some skills

C = average, doing the required work with inconsistent work habits and not working to potential.

D = poor, lacking the necessary energy and passion with little improvement.

F = failing, missing class, excessive tardies, no grasp of material.

**Movement Presentations (10% each, mid-term and concert 20%)**

1. Vocabulary – January 23
2. Warm up – February 1
3. Leon 1 – February 8
4. Mid-term combination – February 29
5. B.S. Chorus – March 28
6. Dance Concert – April 22  
rehearsals Saturday, April 19, 9am  
Monday, April 21, 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, April 22, 11:30 am

## History Presentations (presentation 20%): Tap Dancer Presentations – April 23 and 25

The following list of names is of tap dancers on whom I've based the material for this class. Some are contemporary artists, some are not. We will be learning dances from Vaudeville to the present. However, there is more to tap than simply learning the steps. The people who work in the tap world are just as varied and unique as the sounds they create. Many of them are not only gifted dancers/choreographers, but they are also teachers/historians dedicated to passing on the legacies left behind by the pioneers of American tap dance. In order to pay tribute to and acknowledge their contributions to tap, I want you to choose a dancer from the list and present his/her story to the class. Why did this person become a tap dancer, does s/he have a signature style, what does s/he bring to the tap community? Use as many visuals as you can – video clips if you can find them. Let us know why we should remember these dancers. Your presentation should be 15-20 minutes long.

### Contemporary

Brenda Buffalino (performer/choreographer – Jazz Tap Ensemble)

Michelle Dorrance (performer)

Josh Hilberman (performer/choreographer)

Gene Medler (teacher/choreographer – NCYTE)

Dian Walker (Leon 1, performer/choreographer)

### Deceased

The Nicholas bros. (B.S. Chorus)

Leonard Reed (Shim Sham)

Bill Bojangles Robinson (Vaudeville routine)

### Vocabulary

Step, stomp, stamp, hop, leap, dig, shuffle, riffle, flap, slurp (flam), riff, pick up, pull back, wing