

Syllabus: KIN 137A: Ballroom Dance I
California State University, Northridge
Department of Kinesiology

Course Information:

Units: 1
Semester/Year: spring 2008
Location: 292 Kinesiology (RE)
Meeting: T or R 7:00-8:50p.m.
Class #: T: 13087; R: 13625

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Hooshang Bagheri
Office: 288 Kinesiology (RE)
Phone: (818) 677-2555
email: hooshang.bagheri @ csun.edu
Hours: M. 2:00-4:00p.m.; T: 12:00-2:00p.m.
R. 6:00-7:00p.m; and .by appointment

Course Textbook: None. Buy a notebook and a pair of socks or ballroom dance shoes instead.

Course Description: Introductory course to ballroom dancing. Study, analysis, practice, and development of social dance etiquette, technique, and proficiency in the fundamental skills of smooth and percussive Ballroom Dance.

Course Methodology: A combination of demonstration, discussion and practice; plus individual, partner, and group dance experiences.

Course Objectives: As the result of passing this course for a grade of:

"CR" or "C" students should be able to:

1. Participate in at least 12 consecutive dance sessions with appropriate social etiquette and clothing. Reserve any absences for the end of semester;
2. Demonstrate individually, through Skill Level 1, beginning skills for four dances
3. Write a one-page perspective paper summarizing notes on learning;

"B" in addition to the above students should also be able to:

4. Demonstrate with a partner, through Skill Level 2, intermediate skills for two dances,
5. Demonstrate, through a written test, understanding of each dance (cultural, technical and musical background associated with steps);

"A" in addition to the above students should also be able to:

6. Demonstrate, with a partner from within the class, higher skills for one ballroom dance (five-figure arrangement) and present its cultural background.

Course Requirement:

I. Presence: * Attendance: Come to class on time, regularly, with adequate practice. Wear appropriate clothing, socks or dance shoes. No hat, no cell phone, no gum, Two tardiness/early departure (even 5 minutes) equals an absent. Communicate with me in advance if an emergency need makes you miss a class. Policy:

Number Absence(s)

0

1

2

3 (max)

4 (trouble)

Grade Earned

A+ for your attendance, not your grade

A for your attendance, not your grade

B for your attendance, not your grade

C or CR for your attendance & grade

D or NC for your grade

* Organization: Present your written work neatly in a folder and/or notebook.

* Professionalism: Have social etiquette, communicate, and pay attention.

II. Skill Level 1 Test: Execute the language & correct posture, poise and pattern to the Basic Figure of four Ballroom dances and two variations for each.

III. Perspective: Write about a) the content of the course, b) the story of your learning & challenges, c) a few suggestions to a new student for getting the best out of this course.

IV. Skill Level 2 Test: Demonstrate the correct technique and partnership for two dances with three different figures;

V. Written Test: Containing ten questions: matching, describing and short discussion, covering steps, figures, music, and technique for the dances taught (open notebook); Make up only for emergency cases is given. Do not be absent.

VI. Informance: To earn a grade better than a “B”, you need to do a short project related to a dance taught. Ideas for this project will be discussed in class.

Course Evaluation and Grading: Your grade in KIN 137A is based upon the completion of the following requirements:

Grade	Purpose	Nature	Minimum Requirements
CR or C	Recreational	solo	Presence + Skill Level 1 + Perspective
C+ or B- or B	Technical	partner	above + Skill Level 2 + Written Test
B+ or A- or A	Creativity	partner	above + Informance

Course Content: Selected choices from the following popular American style Ballroom Dances: Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep, Tango, Merengue, Rumba, Cha Cha, Salsa, Swing, Samba and perhaps an Iranian dance .

Special Notes: I reserve the (+) or (-) option on the final letter grade for those students who demonstrate quality attitude, commitment, and work throughout the semester. Please:

1. Understand the requirements of the course for each grade. Focus on completing the requirements for "C" or “CR” successfully, before attempting to go for a “B”.
2. Pay attention to your purpose for taking this course and consider the amount of effort and practice you are willing to put into this course (5 , 10, or 15 minutes a day for a CR, B, or A respectively)
3. Decide, within the first three sessions, upon the grade you would like to earn.
4. Complete, sign, and date the contract by the third session and keep it in your folder.
5. If you are planning to do the “Informance,” start that project on the 4th session;
6. Complete the requirements by due date and place them in your folder.

Student with Disabilities: If you are a student with disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact the office of Students with Disabilities Resources Building or call (818) 677-2684 for an appointment.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating or plagiarism is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction.

Project: Kin 137A: Ballroom Dance I, Dr. Bagheri

VI. Informance: To earn a grade better than a “B”, you need to do a short project related to a dance taught. Procedure to follow:

1) Perform: Build your own dance around your own CD music and five figures (four figures learned in class, and 1 figure made based on the knowledge of your research. Make sure to have:

a) An interesting beginning shape,

b) At least five different dance figures in the middle (four learned in class and one made up by you),

c) An interesting ending shape to hold.

*** Teach your dance to a classmate (s) and practice it regularly. Dress up a bit to perform in 1 minute.**

2. Inform: Prepare a two-page desktop:

Page one: Show a) Title, b) One related picture, c) Description of the figure you made up to perform, c) One food recipe, and d) three related references (restaurant, store, CD music, book, article, URL, etc.)

Page two: Three interesting cultural background to your dance: **a)** Story of the dance, **b)** music of the dance: instruments or rhythmic patterns, **c)** Culture of the dance: event or Costume or musician, etc.

*** Show your visual, share your paper and a tasty edible in 1 minute.**