Course Name: Latin Rhythms and Dance THR-266-M01
Semester: Spring 2014
Class time: TR from 14:00 to 16:30 p.m.
Credits: 3
Teacher: Mª Jesus Peces-Barba (Susi)
Language: Spanish / English
Office Hours: By appointment, before or after class.
E-mail: mpecesba@slu.edu
Phone number: 638 510 571

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In this course, students will learn the basic steps and sequences, as well as some of the history, of at least five Latin dances (Merengue, Salsa Cubana, Bachata, Tango Argentino, Cha-cha-cha…). Videos and magazines will be used to complement our dance studies, and outings to Latin dance clubs, as well as other activities aimed at putting the coursework into practice, will also be arranged.

The Latin Rhythms course will focus on two basic aspects:

A. A theoretical part in which we will discuss the origins, history, evolution and influences of the different types of Latin dance that will be practiced during the course. Adequate time will be devoted to theory so that the student will gain a basic understanding of the dances that s/he will learn. Supplementary materials will be provided for at-home reading. **There will be one theoretical exam and one paper.**

B. A practical part in which the student will begin learning basic steps and sequences. This is the fundamental part and will occupy practically all of our class time. **There will be a performance at the end of the course.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:
The main objectives of this course are:

- To introduce the student to the theoretical and practical aspects of Latin Rhythms (Merengue, Bachata, Salsa, Tango, Cha-cha-cha…)
- That, by the end of the semester, students can dance Merengue, Salsa, Bachata, Cha-cha-chá and Tango Argentino to a basic but competent level.
- That, by the end of the semester, students may know the origins and the general history behind each of the dances studied.
- To help students discover Latin American culture through its music and dance.
- That, by the end of the semester, students can recognize and distinguish each one of the rhythms studied.
- To learn group choreographies so that, at the end of the semester, students can participate in the final performance whose main objective is to show what has been learnt during the course.
• That the students learn to appreciate and enjoy the art of dance, especially Latin dance.
• That students benefit from the aptitudes inherent to dance such as team work, responsibility, cultural and social tolerance, and an increased awareness of their own capacities.

**GRADING & ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
The final grade will consist of the following:

1. Theoretical exam (20 points)
2. Paper (20 points)
3. End-of-Course Performance, equivalent to a final examination. (10 points)
4. Attitude during the course (30 points). Active participation requires effort on your part. Just coming to class does not count as participation. I will keep track of your participation and motivation during in-class activities.
5. Active class attendance (20 points). The attendance in this class is mandatory and necessary because it is a practical class. No more than two unexcused absences will be permitted. In the case of any absences, it is necessary to bring an official justification. More than two unexcused absences will significantly lower your grade (5% for each one). The only officially excused absences are those resulting from university trips and other school-related activities. If you have to miss class because of medical reasons, please talk to me.

At the end of the semester, all points obtained throughout the semester will be added together to produce a final grade of 100 points (1 point = 1 percent). The mid-term grade will be based on the points obtained up until that moment, and on the professor’s assessment of the students’ progress.

The relation between final grades and points/ percent is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96 - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 95%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85 - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 84%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75 - 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 74%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60 - 69%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>51 - 59%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>less than 50</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:
Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:
University education is based on the notion of individual achievement within a creative and collaborative environment. A vital ingredient in order for learning to take place in this type of environment is academic integrity. The spirit of mutual trust and integrity which is necessary for the effectiveness of the University is violated by any dishonest behavior carried out when submitting for academic evaluation assignments and exams required for validation of the student’s learning. Violations of academic integrity undermine the validity of the grades awarded to students for their individual achievement, take unfair advantage of fellow students, and fail to give credit to other individuals’ creative achievements.
Any violation of this policy will result in a F for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Examples of violations of academic integrity include the following:

- copying during an exam from another student’s test paper
- allowing another student to copy from one’s own test paper
- using a textbook, class notes, study aids, or any other unauthorized source of information on a closed-book examination
- copying another student’s assignment
- allowing another student to copy one’s own assignment
- copying a passage or text directly from a book, encyclopedia, journal, or any other published material, or any electronic source, without indicating the source or without using a recognized style for citing sources
- submitting identical or similar papers for credit in more than one course without prior permission from the course instructors
- taking a test or writing a paper for another student
- securing or supplying in advance a copy of an exam without the knowledge or consent of the instructor
- falsifying or inventing any information, data or citation; presenting data that were not gathered in accordance with standard guidelines defining the appropriate methods for collecting or generating data and failing to include an accurate account of the method by which the data were gathered or collected

Instances of the above violations or any other behavior which is a clear violation of academic integrity will be met with sanctions. These may include:
• a reduced or failing grade for the assignment or exam in question
• a reduced or failing grade for the course
• further disciplinary action by the university

ASSESSMENT:
Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, videos and papers may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

COURSE OUTLINE:
First Part:
Theoretical aspects:
- Latin rhythms
- Origins, evolution and history of Merengue
- Origins, evolution and history of Salsa + the musical instruments used.
- The different types of Salsa (Cuban, Colombian, New York and L.A. style)
- Tango Argentino (origins, themes, instruments…)

Practical Aspects:
- Basic steps of Merengue (From 2,00 to 3,15 p.m.)
- Basic steps of Salsa Cubana (From 2,00 to 3,15 p.m.)
- Tango Argentino (from 3,30 to 4,30 p.m.)

Second Part:
Theoretical Aspects:
- Origins, evolution and history of Bachata or Cha-cha-chá.

Practical Aspects:
- Basic steps of Bachata or Cha-cha-chá (from 2,00 to 3,15 p.m.)
- Tango argentino (from 3,30 to 4,30 p.m.)

Final Part:
End-of-Course Group Performance.
The Performance will be on Tuesday April 29* at 6.30 p.m in Colegio Mayor Elias Ahuja.

We will have two rehearsals on the stage:
- Monday April 28 from 7,00 p.m. to 9,00 p.m.
- General Rehearsal Tuesday April 29 from 3,30 p.m. to 6,00 p.m

(*This date is subject to change according to theater availability)
PROGRAM:
January Wd 8  SP 14 New Student Arrival and University Housing
Move-In Date
January Th-Fr 9-10  SP 14 New Student Welcome Sessions
January Mn 13  Spring 2014 First day of classes
January 14-30  Basic steps of Merengue. Técnica del abrazo de pareja.
Evoluciones en pareja. Evoluciones libres.
Basic steps of Tango (caminada básica, caminada con retroceso, técnica de pareja)
January Fr 24  Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/ or add a class
January Mn 27  Application deadline for Spring and Summer Semester Degree candidates
January Fr 31  No classes
February Mn 10  Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
February Wd 12  Registration for summer 2014 Sessions begins
February 4-27  Basic steps of Salsa Cubana. Evoluciones libres y en pareja (paso lateral, paso cruzado, paso abierto, Open-break, Enchufla, Aspirina, Aspirina doble, Abajo, Setenta, Ochenta y cuatro, Dile que no)
Tango (Ochos, loops, caídas, voleas)
February Tu 25  First midterm exam
March Su 2  Professors’ deadline to submit midterm grades
March Mn 3-Tu 4  Winter break. No classes
March 6-20  Basic steps of Bachata or Cha-cha-chá.
Tango (ganchos, caídas, caminada en círculo)
March Wd 12  Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W.
March Mn 17  Last day to submit transfer application for Fall semester
March Tu 18  Last day to bring the paper.
March 25-April 24  Rehearsals to prepare the Performance
April Wd 9  Registration for Fall semester begins
April Sa 12-Su 20  Semana Santa. Holiday. (University closed)
April Mn 21  Classes resume (full day)
April Mn 28  Rehearsal on the stage from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
April Tu 29  General Rehearsal and Dance Performance (Final Exam) in Colegio Mayor Elias Ahuja from 3,30 to 9,00 p.m.
May Th 1  Holiday
May Fr 2  Holiday
May Tu 6  Last day of class. Handin costume and final review.
May Wd 14  University housing move-out date
May Wd 14  Commencement
May Th 15  San Isidro Holiday. University closed
May Fr 16  Professors´ deadline to submit Final Grades.

Note: During the semester we will do two diferent workshop with invited artists.
STUDIO FEE - 90€:
Bill it directly with tuition. This is also mandatory for those who want to do the class as an activity (without credits).

THE CLASS AS AN ACTIVITY (WITHOUT CREDITS):
It is only possible to do the class as an activity in the advanced section, or in the basic sections which have less than 15 people. There is a Studio Fee-100€

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Magazines: - “ABS” www.absinforma.com
- “Tangoneon”
Texts: - Isabelle Leymarie, “La música latinoamericana, ritmos y danzas de un continente”
- Isabelle Leymarie, “La música Cubana”.
Notes and VCD: - Latin Dance documentation will be handed out by the teacher.