

San José State University

Department of Kinesiology

Fall 2014, KIN 47A, Beginning West Coast Swing

### **Course and Contact Information**

Instructor: Hans Schmitt

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Office Hours: Thursday 2 to 2:30

Class Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 to 3:20 pm

Classroom: spx 178

### **Course Description**

This course is focused on the development of fundamental West Coast Swing dance skills and knowledge.

### **Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

Following activities and assigned reading, students will be able to demonstrate through class activities/assignments, dance skill tests, and written exams,

- Knowledge of fundamental dance steps, principles of leading and following, rhythmic patterns and techniques related to Swing dancing.
- Proficiency in dancing the fundamental steps and variations covered.
- Proficiency in dancing rhythmically and with appropriate style, coordination, agility and balance.
- The ability to identify and/or explain the applicable history, competitive structure, safety and etiquette appropriate to partner dancing in general and West Coast Swing in particular.
- The ability to identify and/or explain the influence of culture on the emergence and evolution of west coast swing as well its characteristic style.
- The ability to identify and/or explain the mental and physical health benefits to be derived from dance.
- The ability to identify and/or explain the characteristics of swing music, it's sound, rhythm, and diversity.

## **Activity Program Learning Outcomes**

After completion of the physical activity graduation requirement, students shall be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the execution of the motor/sport skills appropriate to the specific activities completed
- Identify and/or explain the applicable history, rules, strategies, current research, safety, and etiquette related to the specific activities completed
- Identify and/or explain the benefits of physical activity as related to physical and mental health

## **Class protocol**

Students are expected to arrive on time and participate fully in all activities throughout the class period. Turn cell phone off and put away for the duration of the class. Interactions with classmates and the instructor are expected to be respectful at all times.

- Recording class: Instruction may not be recorded. If classmates ask you to record their performance for later review, make sure it is done before or after class rather than during class. Do not post or otherwise share the recording.
- Places to practice: SJSU Event Center.
- Course grades will be posted on Canvas by the end of finals week.
- Written Exam cannot be made up.
- Drop requests will not be accepted after the SJSU drop deadline.
- For dance exams student are expected to dress their best and to the extent possible coordinate with their test partner.

## **Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

### Grading Plan

In-Class Assignments	Weekly (up to 5 points per class)
Homework Assignments	3 dance outings (5 points per outing)
Practical Quiz	3 (5 points per step, 30 points max)
Midterm	In Class demonstration with partner (30 points max)
Finals	Video performance with partner (15 points max) Written test (15 points max)

Final grade will be calculated by the percentage of total points earned divided by total points possible. Points possible may vary due to the number of In-class assignments.

Following department policy of:

- at least 60% of grade: Dance Skills (including technique/styling)

- at least 20% of grade: Written exam(s)/quizzes/assignments
- Practical quiz (30 pts), In class demo (30 pts), video presentation (15 pts), and homework (15 pts). Dance skills make up 69% of your total grade
- In class written work (25 pts), written final exam (15 pts). Written work makes up 31% of your grade.

Grading Scale used to determine letter grade for each component above.

Percentage	Equivalent Grade
97% - 100%	A+
93% - 96%	A
90% - 92%	A-
87% - 89%	B+
83% - 86%	B
80% - 82%	B-
77% - 79%	C+
73% - 76%	C
70% - 72%	C-
67% - 69%	D+
63% - 66%	D
60% - 62%	D-
below 60%	F

## Tests

- Dance tests: There will be a mid-term and final dance test. With a partner (randomly assigned by the instructor) you will dance to music provided by the instructor (1 minute duration).
- Written test: There will be a written final exam covering conceptual information presented throughout the semester.

## Assignments/Projects

Dance Project:

- Submit a partnered video of all patterns taught in the class danced with a partner with proficiency of rhythm, timing, balance, and style.

Other Options are available:

- With a partner, enter and compete in 1 Jack & Jill event to be videotaped and submitted as a digital video.

### **Outings (3)**

1 hour lesson at a ballroom studio, club, or SJSU Ballroom Dance Club. Use the form in your course supplement to record outings and attach receipt from club/studio.

### **Expectations**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course. This would include preparing for class, participating in course activities, and completing assignments/projects. Generally this will amount to 1 hour a week outside of class.

### **University Policies Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog in the policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity policy at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm> requires approval of instructors.

Note: Outings/assignments completed for another class cannot be counted for this course.

### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03

at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

### Course Calendar

(subject to change with fair notice by announcement in class and/or email)

#### Course Content

#### Week

- 1 Introduction, shoes, clothing, music, demonstrations, and starter step and sugar push.
- 2 Begin West Coast Swing: Swing Style, basic steps (e.g. starter step, sugar push, right side pass, left side pass) and principles (e.g. basic leading/following)
- 3 Review; Continue West Coast Swing basic steps (e.g. sugar push, right side pass, left side pass) and principles of connection (e.g. forward connection and away connection)
- 4 Review; Continue West Coast Swing basic steps (e.g. introduction to whip) and principles of footwork (e.g. walking steps vs. triple steps)
- 5 Review; Continue West Coast Swing basic steps (e.g. introduction to music phrasing) and principles of music (e.g. phrasing, downbeats, triple rhythms, and holds)
- 6 Review and practice
- 7 Practice & Dance Exam 1
- 8 Begin West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps
- 9 Review; Continue West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps (e.g. Tuck-turns and man's turns); Confirm project selection
- 10 Review; Continue West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps (e.g. side pass alternate timings and holds) and principles of presentation position

- 11 Review; Continue West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps (e.g. basic whip variations inside and outside turn)
- 12 Review; Continue West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps (e.g. introduction to extended whip timings) and principles of arm styling
- 13 Review; Continue West Coast Swing advanced-beginner steps (e.g. musicality, dance etiquette)
- 14 Review & Dance Performance Presentations, video submission, Jack and Jill contest submission
- 15 Practice & Dance Exam 2
- 16 Written Final Exam; Outing Receipts Due