

Introduction to Swing Dance DTS 200

Section M002, Class Number 34495

Course Syllabus

Spring 2008

Instructor: Steven Ryan – stevenryan@aol.com, 315-434-9503

Class times: Mondays 7-8:30 PM

Class venue: Fencing room in Archbold Gym

Course Description

This course is designed for those who have no dance experience as well as for those who have done other styles of dance. The course will begin with an overview of different genres under the umbrella of swing. East coast swing, aka jitterbug, will be the first dance to be introduced as it is a versatile dance which is easy to learn. Lindy hop, Latin hustle and west coast swing will be the other dances taught. Each dance will be introduced in its historic and musical context. Fundamentals, technique and musicality will be emphasized. Guest instructors will be invited to add to the variety of teaching styles.

Course Outcomes

Students who complete this course will know the historical background and development of the various swing dance genres, and be able to dance with confidence to a broad range of music, including big band, jazz, rock n roll, r&b, blues, and contemporary.

Attendance

Class participation is the only way to learn how to swing dance, therefore attendance is required. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and be prepared to participate. Only two unexcused absences will be allowed without direct consequence to the course grade.

Grading

Grading is based on the following three components:

- Attendance 50%
- Practical test on last two classes 30%
- Quizzes 20%

Disability Statement

Students who have special needs due to any kind of disability should contact the instructor with a note from the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible. Every reasonable effort will be made to aid in the successful completion of the course.

Topics

- Unit 1. East Coast Swing & Lindy Hop – 4 weeks
- Unit 2. Latin Hustle – 3 weeks
- Unit 3. West Coast Swing – 5 weeks
- Practical Test – 2 weeks

Instructor

Steve Ryan is a professional dancer who has been dancing for more than 25 years, and has won numerous dance competitions throughout that time in jazz, theatre arts, hustle and west coast swing. He also won a full scholarship to the studios of Alvin Ailey in NYC. He is the only advanced male swing dancer in area. Recently he has won first places in advanced WCS at The Big Apple Country Dance Festival & the World Hustle Dance Championship both in 2005. He also danced a feature role in the Sleeping Beauty Ballet in February 2005. He has choreographed many swing dance routines that were performed by class members at local dances and at the Syracuse Symphony. He spent 7 months in 2003 training in Los Angeles with national champions. He's a firm believer in strong technique. He is also a founder of The Syracuse Swing Dance Society. He has been teaching swing for 15 years and stays current by attending and competing at National Events.