Instructor: Alexandra Thacker  
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Office: thackera@cofc.edu  
Office Hours: 8:30-5, M-F, by appointment

Course Description: An introduction to social and ballroom dance, with emphasis on practical application, including leading/following and the blending of basic figures. Students will also explore the history, music, attire, cultural significance, and etiquette for the dances covered in the class.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Outcomes:
- Perform and blend basic steps and patterns for such partnered dances as the East Coast Swing, Waltz, Cha Cha, Rumba, Tango, Carolina Shag, Foxtrot, and Salsa  
- Demonstrate proper use of timing and rhythmic patterns for each dance  
- Perform dances adhering to common directions of movement  
- Identify and utilize basic techniques for various dances  
- Utilize proper partnered dance positions  
- Identify appropriate music for specific dances  
- Demonstrate basic understanding of history and significance of Social/Ballroom dances  
- Demonstrate appropriate social dance etiquette  
- Identify cultural and individual paradigms and how they relate to social dance experiences  
- Demonstrate ability to work effectively with individuals of varied personality, style, and dance ability

Technology: This course will utilize OAKS for the distribution of class materials. Submission of assignments may be made via email or in person.

Class Materials: No textbooks are necessary, although one may wish to bring paper and a writing utensil for note taking, especially during group presentations.

Dancing will take place during each class period. Students are asked to dress appropriately in order to participate; failure to do so will result in loss of participation credit that day. Preferably leather-soled shoes should be worn daily (no new athletic or rubber soled shoes, bare feet, or socks). Ladies may wear heels or flats. Students may not wear slides, flip-flops, or other sandals that do not have a heel strap, for they frequently slip off while dancing. To accommodate this requirement, dancers may need to bring a separate pair of shoes to class sessions. Loose, comfortable clothing that allows for freedom of movement should be worn.

Please remember that dancing is a physical activity from which injury may result. Always be aware of this possibility, and dance safely and correctly in order to protect yourself and your partners. A Waiver of Liability must be completed and returned in order to participate in class. Please see the Welcome post in OAKS for further details.

Provisions for Students with Special Needs: Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the instructor in a timely manner so that his/her needs are addressed.

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disabilities Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104.

Center for Student Learning: Students are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843)953-5635.

Honor Code: The College of Charleston Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct are recognized in this course. For specific details of responsibility and penalty, see the current issue of the College of Charleston Student Handbook.
Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>A 93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>A- 90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam assessing Skill and Knowledge of Dances</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>B+ 88-89</td>
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<td>C 74-77</td>
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<td>D- 68-67</td>
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Grading Scale:

Participation: Participation is not based on attendance alone; attendance in class is mandatory and counts as part of the participation grade, along with effort and preparedness for each class. Participation at two approved out-of-class dance events will be required for full participation credit for the course, as well. More than four absences will result in the loss of 3 points for each excessive absence from one’s participation grade, in addition to one’s final grade dropping a letter grade per each unexcused absence. Attendance with lack of participation, tardiness, or one’s leaving class early will drop one’s participation grade 1.5 points for each occurrence. Each student is responsible for verifying his/her attendance by signing in for every class. If a class is missed for serious personal and/or medical reasons, or for a College sanctioned activity, written documentation must be provided for each incidence and will be taken into consideration at the end of the semester.

Group Presentations: Group presentations will consist of creative projects highlighting the history, music, attire, and cultural significance of one of several dances. 4-5 students will be assigned to each presentation group, and grading will be based on originality, content, organization, and effort via peer and instructor evaluation. Presentations should be 15 minutes in length, and an evaluation sheet for the presentation is due from each student at the beginning of the next class period. A handout for the class and a bibliography are required from each presentation group. Grading for the Group Presentation includes:

- Group evaluation: 25%
- Instructor evaluation: 25%
- Peer evaluation: 25%
- Evaluation participation: 25%

Exam: There will be one exam at the conclusion of the course. The final exam will be held during the scheduled exam period on Wednesday, May 6 from 12-3 p.m. All students must complete a written evaluation and participate in the performance segment. Additional information regarding the exam will be provided following fall break.

Important dates:

- January 12: First Day of Class: review syllabus and introduction to basic steps
- January 20: Last day to Drop/Add
- January 21: Group Presentation selection day
- January 23: Group Presentation assignments released and time to meet with group during class.
- January 31: Fall Break/Storm Day
- Mondays beginning Feb 9 thru Apr 6 (subject to change): Group Presentations
- Wednesdays beginning Feb 11 thru Apr 8 (subject to change): Evaluations due
- March 17: Midterm grades available on MyCharleston
- March 25: Last day to Withdraw from classes
- March 2 thru 7: Spring Break
- April 27: Last class day. All outside-of-class dance experience write-ups are due.
- May 6: Final exam at 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.