(PEAL 260) Tango Dance
Argentine and Latin American Studies Program
University of Belgrano
Course Syllabus 2018

Course Information
Tues. 16:00 – 17:30 hs (C1) 9-1
Tues. 17:30 – 19:00 hs (C2) 9-1
Instruction in Spanish (30 hs)

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Course Description
Product of the fusion of Afro-Rioplate, Gaucho and European dances and rhythms, tango dance was born in the mid-19th century in the marginal neighborhoods of Buenos Aires and Montevideo, experiencing a transformation that makes it a recognized international musical genre in the last decade of the 19th century. This course focuses on tango as an improvisational popular dance. During the practical classes, the students will acquire the tools to improvise this social dance, and they will gradually incorporate the movements, turns and characteristic steps of the tango. All students, based on the changes in roles, will work on the double experience of the "follower" and the "leader". Throughout the course, we will analyze sociocultural aspects of tango, the beginnings and the evolution of the genre, the relationship between the culture of tango and the development of the city of Buenos Aires, as well as the outstanding discography of the genre’s different eras.

Course Requirements
According to this university’s policy, the student must attend 75% of the classes to be considered in good standing. Students must submit three written papers (two midterm exams and one final). It is the policy of the university to suspend for two years any student who commits plagiarism. This decision will affect not only the course in which the plagiarism occurred, but all the courses taken that semester.
Students will a typical milonga in the city of Buenos Aires. This visit is compulsory and is done outside the class schedule.
Students will also take a class at the National Academy of Tango; attendance at this class is mandatory.
Grading Policy

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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam 1</td>
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<td>Participation in theory class</td>
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<td>Midterm exam 2</td>
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<td>Participation in Practical class</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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For a better understanding of the system of grade equivalency and transfer to the European or North American systems, consult the comparative table at: http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies-abroad/peal.php

Required Textbooks and Materials

Cuadernillo del curso, Leticia Tulissi Ed.

Academic Calendar

Class 1:
Presentation of the course and student introductions to the students' experience and interests.
What is tango? (Music, dance and poetry)
Practice: Embrace. Walking: three possible directions.

Class 2:
Theoretical: Emergence of tango, social context, external and internal immigrations. Its musical influences and dance. The city of Buenos Aires expansion. Lunfardo (slang).
Practice: Walking in another lane. Crossing.

Class 3:
Practice: Pivots, eight steps forward. Accompaniments.

Class 4:
Practice: Pivots, eight steps back. Accompaniments.

Class 5:
Class at the National Academy of Tango
Theory: The Golden Age of Tango (1940-1960) factors that drove the popularity and massification of the genre.
Class 6:
Practice: Switch steps (rebotes), sequences, halved eight (ocho cortado).

Class 7:
Practice: Turns. Center and circumference. Right turns and left turns.

Class 8:
Practice: Turns, sequences, various accompaniments.

EXTRA SESSION
Practical class and visit to the Milonga “Maldita Milonga”

Class 9:
Practice: milonga.

Class 10:
Practice: sacadas (over-rotations). Lead and follow. Basic exercises.

Class 11:
Práctica: sacadas in circular sequences.

Class 12:
Practice: ganchos (hooks) for the “follow”. Distinct leads, distinct follows

Class 13:
Theory: Decade of the ’80s to the present day: The return of democracy, the return of the tango. New orchestras and groups and “unorthodox” spaces. Queer tango and the social context of Buenos Aires: milongas, practice.
Practice: series of turns with ganchos.

Class 14:
Practice: waltz.

Class 15:
Grading closes
Course closure and status sheet (hoja de situación) (compulsory attendance)
Practice: tango, milonga and waltz

Bibliografía

(PEAL 260) Tango Danza 3
Dos Santos, Estela. Las mujeres del tango. Buenos Aires: Centro de Editor de América Latina., 1972
Matamoro, Blas. La ciudad del tango. Buenos Aires: Galerna, 1969