

**SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY – Madrid Campus**  
**Fine and Performing Arts Department**

Course Name:	DANC-266-M01 Latin Rhythms and Dance
Semester:	Spring 2018
Class time:	TR from 14:00 to 16:30 p.m.
Credits:	3
Teacher:	M <sup>a</sup> Jesus Peces-Barba (Susi)
Language:	Spanish / English
Office Hours:	TR from 09:00 to 09:30, by appointment, before or after class.
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:maria.jesus.peces.barba@slu.edu">maria.jesus.peces.barba@slu.edu</a>
Phone number:	638 510 571(personal number)

### 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-chá...). Videos 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.** 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.** 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. The professor will decide the program of the Performance.**

### 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**). In the case of a student not being adequately prepared or in conditions to go on stage, the professor reserves the right to change the performance for an alternative exam.
4. Preparation for the Performance (**5 points**). In order to participate in the final performance, students are obligated to attend and collaborate in the previous group rehearsals. Failure to do so may cause them to lose 5 points from their final grade and/ or forfeit the opportunity to participate in the performance. Students are responsible for informing and making arrangements with their professors if they have conflicts with other classes.
5. Attitude during the course (**25 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.
6. Active class attendance and punctuality (**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. Arriving to class more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early without justification will be considered an absence.

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:

<b>A</b>	96 - 100%
<b>A-</b>	90 - 95%
<b>B+</b>	85 - 89%
<b>B</b>	80 - 84%
<b>C+</b>	75 - 79%
<b>C</b>	70 - 74%
<b>C-</b>	60 - 69%
<b>D</b>	51 - 59%
<b>F</b>	less than 50

## **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**

It is not necessary to bring special materials for this class but comfortable shoes and clothes would be useful. An extra T-shirt and elastic pants permit to work better. Latin Dance documentation, DVD and notes will be handed out by the teacher though blackboard.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website

at: [http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic\\_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf).

Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF STUDENT WORK FOR ASSESSMENT**

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

## **TITLE IX STATEMENT:**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University.

If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 ([mmaruri@slu.edu](mailto:mmaruri@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall ([counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid ([www.sinews.es](http://www.sinews.es); 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

### **ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT:**

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://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu) or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

#### **Theoretical aspects (in notes via blackboard or by videos during some classes):**

- 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)
- Origins, evolution and history of **Bachata**
- **Tango Argentino** (origins, themes, instruments...) or **Cha-cha-chá**.

**Practical Aspects (every day of class):**

- Basic steps of **Merengue** (first midterm)
- Basic steps of **Cuban Salsa** (first midterm)
- Basic routines of **Cuban Wheel** (second midterm)
- Basic steps of **Bachata** (second midterm)
- Basic steps of **Tango Argentino or/and Cha-cha-chá** (first and second midterm)

**Final Exam:** End-of-Course Group Performance on **FRIDAY APRIL 27 at 17.30** in Colegio mayor Elias Ahuja (C/Rector Royo Villanova 4, metro: Metropolitano)

**Important note:**

We will have two rehearsals on the stage:

- Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> at class time.
- General Rehearsal Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 P:M: to 4:30 P:M.

**PROGRAM:**

<u>JANUARY</u>	
Wednesday 10	Spring 2018 first day of classes
Thur 11- 23	Basic steps of Merengue. Partner technique and routines. Free steps.Video about Merengue origins.
Sunday 21	Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or add a class
Th 25- Feb 20	Last day to choose audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
	Basic steps of Salsa Cubana. Video about Salsa origins. Partner technique and routines (Open-break, Enchufla, Aspirina, Aspirina doble, Abajo, Setenta, Ochenta y cuatro, Dile que no) Free steps (paso lateral, paso cruzado, paso abierto)
Friday 26	Basic steps of Tango or Cuban Wheel
	Application Deadline for Spring Semester Degree Candidates. <b>No classes</b>
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
Tuesday 20-Mar 15	Tango continuation (or Cuban Wheel) Basic steps of Bachata or Cha-cha-chá.
Tuesday 20	<b>First midterm exam</b>
Thurs-Friday 22-23	<b>Winter Break (No classes)</b>
Tuesday 27	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades
<u>MARCH</u>	
Friday 9	Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W
Thursday 15	Last day to submit Transfer Application for fall semester
Tuesday 20-22	Rehearsals to prepare the Performance
Mon-Su 26-Ap 1	Easter Week - Holiday (University closed)

APRIL

Wednesday 4	Registration for Fall 2018 semester begins
Tuesday 10	<b>Last day to bring the paper.</b>
Tuesday 3-24	Rehearsals to prepare the Performance (continuation)
Thursday 26	<b>Mandatory Rehearsal on the stage at class time.</b>
Friday 27	<b>Final Exam: Rehearsal on stage from 14.30 to 16.30 and PERFORMANCE at 17.30.</b>

MAY

Tuesday 1	Labor Day- <b>Holiday (University closed)</b>
Wednesday 2	Dia de la Comunidad- <b>Holiday (University closed)</b>
Thursday 3	<b>Last day of class. Handing costume and final review.</b>
Friday 11	University Housing move-out date
Saturday 12	Commencement
Sunday 13	Professors' deadline to submit Spring 2018 final grades

Note: During the semester we will do two different workshops with invited artists.

**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 section in special situations. There is a Studio Fee. Please, contact Finance Office.

**THE CLASS AS AN AUDIT (AU)**

To take this option you have to contact with Register Office.