

McDaniel College Budapest

Course Syllabus

EPE 1047 – Salsa

Professor

Réka Ránky

Contact Information

reka.ranky@gmail.com; Prof. Ranky's office is located at the Vet University gym

Availability

Professor Ranky is available Monday to Thursday 9:00–12:00 in her office above the gym, before and after class as well as by appointment.

Class Location:

McDaniel College, Campus in Budapest

Aerobics/Yoga room of the Hungarian University of Veterinary Sciences

Course Description

The course focuses on teaching the students the basic elements of Cuban style salsa danced in a circle with constant change of partners (Rueda de Casino). Roots of the music, origins of the dance and different styles (New York, L.A.) will be presented. Students will learn basic counting of the music, rhythm of the dance and dancing in couples as well as the specific moves and combinations of Cuban salsa. As students familiarize with the basic moves the course gets more and more entertaining with each new combination. This course is active and a lot of fun.

Course Objectives

The course is aimed at teaching the students the following steps and combinations (from a beginner's level):

- basic salsa steps, (basic step, side step, para abajo, Susie-q, left/right turn)
- basic couples positions (close hold, open hold)
- opening steps and combinations of rueda de casino (para el medio, para abajo, exhibela, exhibela double)
- transition to open hold; changing partners (dile que no, dame una, dame otra, dame dos)
- beginners combinations (enchufla (double), adios, adios con la hermana, voici lala, sombrero)

Students will also learn:

- how to lead

- how to follow

Learning Outcomes

Students will have a basic knowledge about the origins of the dance, its past and present and most important style variations. Students will be able to demonstrate the basic skills, techniques and combinations mentioned in the course objectives. They will gain understanding and familiarity with both salsa music (its rhythm and counting, different styles of salsa music) and salsa dance. They will learn to dance with, lead and follow different partners.

Required texts & materials

- Handouts during the semester

Grading

Grading will be entirely based on active in-class participation.

Honor Code

You are expected without question to adhere completely to the McDaniel College academic honor code.

Course Policies

This is a fun class that involves a lot of movement. No special clothing is required (street clothes can be worn) but keep in mind that you want to be comfortable, therefore we recommend that you wear loose fitting clothes. No high-heels. Bring water to drink.

Each class will begin with a warm up session, an overview of previously learnt steps and combinations and will finish with dancing the moves which have been learnt up to that point.

No chewing gum or candy in class. No swearing in class. Kindly always let the instructor know if you have an injury or are feeling unwell. We ask that you not to be late; distract others during class; that you turn off your cell phone and that you do not check for messages during class. Likewise, you can expect the instructor to end class on time, to engage you in challenging and fun activities, and to be respectful of all points of view.

If there is a student in this class who has specific needs, please feel free to contact the instructor.

Participation implies attendance; absences will be noted and will adversely affect your final grade. Please keep in mind that the classes build on one another. This means if you miss a class you will need extra time in the next class to learn the missed steps or combinations. In addition, in accordance with McDaniel Budapest's attendance policy, there will be an automatic deduction of one letter grade for every unexcused absence following your second unexcused absence.

Class 1

Introduction to the course (course objectives and policies); presentation of the origins of salsa music and dance; basic salsa steps

Class 2

Opening steps and combinations of rueda de casino (para el medio, para abajo, exhibela, exhibela doble); basic couple's positions (close hold)

Class 3

Transition to open hold; changing partners (dile que no, dame una)

Class 4

Variations of changing partners; dancing basic in couples (dame otra, dame dos, guapea)

Class 5

Beginners combinations – 1 (enchufla – enchufla double)

Class 6

Beginners combinations – 2 (adios)

Class 7

Beginner's combinations – 3 (adios con la hermana)

Class 8

Beginners combinations – 4 (vacilala)

Class 9

Beginners combinations – 5 (sombrero)

Class 10

Final presentation of learned combinations; fiesta