

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Physical Activity For Lifetime Wellness

RECR 184 Tai Chi: Introduction (1)
1 Credit, Spring 2023
MW 9:00 - 10:15

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Increase awareness of the mind/body connection. Introduce basic principles of Chi (energy) and Yin Yang (polarity) and how they apply to the body through practicing the Tai Chi movements.

Course Overview

1. Students with injuries or pre-existing conditions that may affect performance must inform the instructor at the beginning of the course
2. All communication will be through GMU email.
3. Apparel/Equipment:
 - a. Loose comfortable clothing should be worn.
 - b. Students must wear either athletic shoes or go barefoot.

Course Delivery Method

This course is an activity course.

Expectations

- Course Week:
Our course week will begin on the day that our meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.

Participation:

Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

- **Workload:**
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Demonstrate the warm-up exercises - Carry Tiger, Roll downs, Spiraling left and right
2. Demonstrate all 19 basic movements of the Tai Chi solo form.
3. Define and explain Chi (intrinsic energy)
4. Define the Dan Tian and how it is used in Tai Chi
5. Define and explain polarity, or Yin Yang, and how it is used in our bodies.
6. Define Rooting, Connectedness and Alignment and how it is used in the Tai Chi form
7. Explain the five main movement principles used in the Tai Chi solo form
8. Explain and demonstrate - the Tai Chi form with flow and proper structure
9. Develop and document a personal daily Tai Chi regimen.

Required Texts

None

Will be provided by the instructor when needed.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, hard copy).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**
 - Attendance (10%)
5 points will be given each day with a deduction of 1 point for each five-minutes that a student is late. Students must attend the entire class period and participate in the daily activities to receive full credit for the class. Assuming the total possible points available is 60, your lab exercise score will be the number of points you gained each day divided by 60 and then multiplied by 10%. If you attend, are on time, each day, and participate as scheduled, you'll receive the full 5 points for that day. Unexcused absences, late arrivals, and lackadaisical performance could significantly affect the grade. Absences are excused with a doctor's note only. Emails, phone calls, and texts do not excuse an absence. Doctor's notes must be presented immediately upon return to class or scanned and emailed to the instructor.
 - Final Exam (70%)
 - Written: Multiple choice exam of Tai Chi (30%).
 - Practical: Demonstration of all 19 movements (40%)

Grading Scale:

A = 94 – 100	B + = 88 – 89	C + = 78 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A- = 90 – 93	B = 84 – 87	C = 74 – 77	F = 0 – 59
	B- = 80 – 83	C- = 70 – 73	

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

Class Schedule**COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE			TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
M	Jan	23	Introduction, and demonstrate Cheng style Tai Chi form. Define Dan Tien, yin & yang and chi, learn warm-up exercise Spiraling left and right and roll downs	
W	Jan	25	Learn Carry Tiger To The Mountain	
M	Jan	30	Learn Tai Chi movements from beginning through Preparation, Explain Cheng's five main principles	
W	Feb	1	Learn movements: Ward-off Left, Explain 8 basic energies of Tai Chi Chuan	
M	Feb	6	Learn movements: Ward-off Right	
W	Feb	8	Learn movements: Roll Back, Press	

M	Feb	13	Learn movements: Evade and Push	
W	Feb	15	Discuss the history/lineage of Tai Chi	
M	Feb	20	Learn movements: Control From Above, Turn And Throw	
W	Feb	22	Learn movements: Hold The Ball, Form The Hook	
M	Feb	27	Learn Single Whip	
W	Mar	1	Learn Close The Form	
M	Mar	6	Review all exercises and concepts	
W	Mar	8	Final Exam	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per [University Policy 1202](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.

Mason is now partnered with TimelyMD to deliver **TimelyCare** – a new virtual mental health and well-being platform for students. The service provides 24/7 access to virtual care at no cost and augments the in-person and virtual mental health services that remain available to Mason

students through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Student Health Services (SHS).

Remind your students to take advantage of the **TimelyCare** services when they feel stressed or overwhelmed. We've included a slide at the link below that you can attach to emails, input in Blackboard, and present to students before and after class.

How can students access **TimelyCare?**

Students can go to timelycare.com/gmu or directly download the **TimelyCare** app from the app store to register with their school email address. Students can then start visits from any web-enabled device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – anywhere in the United States.

Who can use **TimelyCare?** Any enrolled Mason student.

What services are available?

- **Talk Now:** Unlimited on-demand mental health support 24/7, available to all Mason students throughout the world!
- **Health Coaching:** Unlimited access to health coaching, available to all Mason students throughout the world.
- **Scheduled counseling sessions:** Limited to 12 sessions per academic year, available to all Mason students throughout the United States. Students can choose the day, time, and mental health provider of their choice.
- **Psychiatry sessions:** Available to all Mason students throughout the United States by referral from CAPS, Student Health Services, or a **TimelyCare** counselor.
- **Self-Care Content:** Yoga and meditation sessions and group conversations

How much does a **TimelyCare visit cost?**

TimelyCare services are available at no cost to students.