**DANC 189a: Tap Dance**

**Section 22450R**

**Fall 2017**

**2 units**

**Day:** Tue/Thurs

**Time:** 10:30-11:50am

**Location:** KDC 107

**Instructor:** Christian Vincent

**Office:** KDC 222

**Office Hours:** To be scheduled by email

**Contact Info:** vinc405@usc.edu

**Catalog Description**

An introduction to basic Tap Dance technique, rhythms, syncopation, and musicality, developing into complex steps and elementary dances with progressive understanding of weight change, improvisation, and combinations of sound.

**Course Description**

This beginning level course introduces students to basic steps, rhythms, vocabulary, musicality and movement skills as well as the basic historical and cultural background of tap dance.

**Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will:

* Attain proper tap dance technique within warm-ups and combinations.
* Develop improved strength, flexibility, and rhythmic understanding.
* Demonstrate basic combinations utilizing beginning tap dance vocabulary.
* Illustrate understanding of rhythmic weight changes and beginning musical skills.
* Compose a tap dance combination by responding to rhythms provided by the instructor.
* Demonstrate correct performance of combinations learned in class.
* Examine basic historical and cultural contexts of tap dance.

**Description of Assignments and Participation:**

In-class Participation:

* Turn off all electronic devices that make noise.
* Listen and pay attention during class.
* Engage in class discussions.
* Report any injuries that prohibit class participation to the instructor.
* No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the studio.
* **If you are unable to participate in class due to injury, please take detailed notes on the material covered. Notes taken will be collected and checked by the instructor at the end of class.**
* If you must leave class early, please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class.

**Attendance:**

Attendance and full participation in class exercises. Students will be expected to practice outside of class in order to progress at an appropriate pace. The class also has a required mid-term and final exam. Attendance at the mid- term and final exam is crucial to receiving a passing grade in the course. The final exam will be given on the date as published in the USC schedule of classes for Fall semester 2017, **Thursday, December 7, 2017, from 11 am-1pm.**. The mid-term is scheduled during class on Thursday, October 12, 2017.Only 4 permitted absences per semester. Two points will be deducted for every additional absence and 1/2 of a point will be deducted for every tardy. The student will be will not be able to participate in class if 15 or more minutes late. This will be considered an absence. Please email the instructor (if mentally and physically able) to notify of your absence. If illnesses or family emergencies occur, that result in excessive absences, please communicate with the instructor at your earliest convenience. Classroom attendance, participation and attendance at the mid-term and final examinations are paramount to passing the course.

**Assignments:**

Dance Reflection Paper:

Students are required to observe one dance concert during the semester. A 2-page, double spaced, written paper is due on the day of the final, in which students are required to write their observation of the entire show, including any technical elements that they recognize from class being translated to the performance stage in reference to specific pieces. Students are also encouraged to engage all of their senses while observing the work (i.e. what was the mood of the piece?, how many dancers were in the piece?, were any sounds incorporated into the movement?, did it appear to travel in any particular way?, costuming?, multimedia?). Any conflicts should be brought to the instructor's attention at-least one month prior to the date of the concert. Dance reflection papers should be written in proper MLA format and a hardcopy should be submitted on the day of the final exam . Instructions on MLA formatting can be found at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

Your choice of attending any USC Glorya Kaufman BFA performances:

USC Village Ribbon Cutting: USC Village, October 3rd,

Student Choreography: Large Performance Studio, October 12\_13th

BFA Fall Performance: Large Performance Studio, November 14-17 and 19th

Student Works: Large Performance Studio, November 28-30th

**Mid-term:**

Students are required to be in class for the final exam, so note the date.

**Thursday, October 12, 2017 during class.**

**Final Exam:**

Students are required to be in class for the final exam, so note the date. **Thursday, December 7, 2017, from 11 am-1pm.**

**Proper Attire for Technique Class:**

Students are required to have tap shoes. Jazz pants, easy fitting pants and/or shorts and form-fitting workout clothes are acceptable. No over-sized or baggy attire please. Items can be purchased online or at neighborhood dance wear supply stores. Dance shoes can be purchased online or at any dance store. Be sure to check size conversions as some dance shoes are sized differently than normal shoes. **Students arriving to class in incorrect attire will be asked to sit-out and take notes but will be expected to engage in course dialogue.**

**Grading Breakdown**

Grading:

Grades are based on an average of the assessments given by the instructor, plus subjective in-class qualities like *effort*, *progress, attitude, and attendance.* Dance etiquette should be observed while in and around the studio, and will affect grades as well.

**Grading Scale and Point Values:**

In-class participation: 24.5pts

Attendance: 24.5pts

Dance Reflection Paper: 11pts

Mid-Term: 15pts

Final Exam: 25pts

**100 PTS TOTAL**

A+ = 100 points B+ = 88-90 points C+ = 78-80 points D+ = 67-70 points

A = 95-99 points B = 85-87 points C = 75-77 points D = 64-66 points

A- = 91-95 points B- = 81-84 points C- = 71-74 points D- = 61-63 points F = 60 or below

**COURSE CONTENT**

Weeks 1-4 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will learn stretching and warm up exercises to aid in proper articulation of the foot and ankle. Students will learn basic Tap dance steps and technique as well as simple rhythm and syncopation at the barre and in center.

Weeks 5-8 (and continuing throughout the quarter):  Students will continue to learn more complex tap technique at the barre and in center. Tap progressions (across the floor). Students will demonstrate short, choreographed Tap dance combinations based on material covered in the course. **Mid-term,** **Thursday, October 12, 2017 during class.**

Weeks 9-12 (and continuing throughout the quarter):   Students will compose a short Tap dance combination by responding to rhythms provided by the instructor.

Weeks 13-15: The students will demonstrate a choreographed combination based on the fundamentals of Tap dance technique acquired throughout the course. Students will be asked to perform in The Elective Experience presentation for extra credit.

Week 16: The final exam will be a presentation of all elements practiced throughout the semester.

**Additional Policies:**

In-class Participation:

* Turn off or silence cell phones.
* Listen and remain attentive during class.
* Engage in in-class discussions regarding movement practice and historical context.
* Any injuries that prohibit class participation must be reported to the instructor.
* Remain respectful and attentive while others are speaking/demonstrating in class .
* No gum, food, or drinks will be allowed in the studio.
* If you cannot participate in class due to an injury you must quietly take notes on the  combinations, ideas, and concepts discussed in class. These notes must be turned in to the instructor at the end of the class period. In some cases, it may also be appropriate to record combinations on electronic devices; the purpose is solely for your at-home practice. Videos of course material are not permitted to be posted on the Internet.
* If you must leave the classroom before the end of class, please let the instructor know beforehand.
* Wearing appropriate attire to all classes (as described within the syllabus)

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu or to the Department of Public Safety http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage http://sarc.usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

**Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

**Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

**FINAL NOTE: It is often necessary for the instructor to place his/her hands on a student in order to better facilitate the learning process and to illustrate proper alignment. If a student should have an aversion to this practice please notify the professor prior to the start of classes.**