

## **DANC 183A: BALLET**

**Code 22390R**

**Fall 2014**

**2 Units**

**Day: Tue/Thur**

**Time: 8:00–9:20am**

**Location: PED 207**

**Instructor: Jackie Kopcsak**

**Office: STO 334**

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

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

### **Catalog Description**

Beginning techniques of classical ballet consisting of basic barre and center work; basic body and arm positions, port de bras, allegro and elementary adagio.

### **Full Course Description**

Fundamental technique studies in a studio setting. Study includes the foundational technical elements, vocabulary, musical connection, culture and history of ballet and its development.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students are expected to demonstrate in class work and in the exams:

- Beginning-level proficiency of classical ballet technique, including physical strength, (flexibility, coordination, extension, placement, precision, clarity, and stamina); mental focus, and ease of movement.
- A strong sense of discipline and work ethic.
- Beginning-level awareness of musicality and dynamics.
- Beginning-level awareness of individual artistry.

### **Participation**

Active participation in all exercises, discussion, and studio course work is necessary for the student to be successful in the class. Students are required to be prompt and prepared for class instruction.

### **Proper Attire for Technique Class**

Students are expected to be dressed appropriately with hair neat and out of the face at the beginning of class. Studio clothing attire should be clean and show the body modestly and allow for full range of motion. Women: Solid color leotard, pink or black full-length tights, ballet slippers with elastic. Men: Leotard or close fitting T-shirt, full-length tights, dance belt, ballet slippers with elastic. Yoga and/or close-fitting work-out attire is also allowed.

### **Required Text**

Grant, Gail. Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1982.

## Description and Assessment of Assignments

### YouTube Viewing

Approximately once a week, students will be assigned a short YouTube viewing.

### Journal

Students will keep a written journal of technical terminology; achievements, challenges, and inspirations; and commentary regarding assigned YouTube clips. Journals will be due week 5 (Thur 09/25), week 10 (Thur 10/30) and week 15 (Tue 12/2).

### Dance Concert Reflection Paper

Students will write a 2–3 page paper reflecting on their experience of attending a student or professional dance concert (pre-approved by the instructor). This paper should also address how the work seen relates to specific elements of the student's technical studies. Due at the end of Week 13 (11/20).

#### Suggested LA Dance Events this Semester:

Australian Ballet in "Swan Lake" as part of Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center – **10/09–12** (possibility of arranging discounted group tickets at the beginning of the semester)

Los Angeles Ballet in "Swan Lake" – **10/04–11/01**

Batsheva Dance at UCLA – **11/01**

Ballet Boyz as part of Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center **11/07–09**

### Mid-Term and Final Exam

The Mid-Term Exam will be a written exam on ballet vocabulary and class discussion topics.

The Final Exam will be a practical exam of traditional class exercises.

**Mid-Term Exam: Thursday, October 9, 8:00–9:20am**

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16, 4:30–6:30pm**

## Grading Breakdown

40% Lesson progress, preparation and achievement as evidenced by active participation and accomplishment of in-class work observed by teacher

15% Journal

15% Dance Concert Reflection Paper

15% Mid-Term Exam

15% Final Exam

A+ = 100 points

A = 96–99 points

A– = 91–95 points

B+ = 88–90 points

B = 85–87 points

B– = 81–84 points

C+ = 78–80 points

C = 75–77 points

C– = 71–74 points

D+ = 67–70 points

D– = 61–63 points

F = 60 or below

## Additional Policies

Attendance is mandatory as most of our work is done in the studio each session. There will be four excused absences allowed. No doctors' notes are necessary or accepted. No make-up classes are allowed. Tardiness is not tolerated as early warm-ups are critical to preventing injury; the full class time is necessary to complete course training, and tardiness creates a significant disruption to the course work of the other students. Tardiness of 20 minutes or more will constitute an absence. Further, three tardy attendances of less than 20 minutes will also constitute an absence. Because active participation as defined herein is so utterly important to this course, each unexcused absence will count for a 3-point deduction of active participation points.

### Schedule (Subject to Change):

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> Aug 26 Aug 28	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #1	
<b>Week 2</b> Sept 2 Sept 4	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #2	
<b>Week 3</b> Sept 9 Sept 11	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #3	
<b>Week 4</b> Sept 16 Sept 18	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #4	
<b>Week 5</b> Sept 23 Sept 25	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #5	<b>Journal due #1 (at least 5 entries) 09/25</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Sept 30 Oct 2	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #6	
<b>Week 7</b> Oct 7 Oct 9	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #7	<b>Mid-Term Exam 10/09</b>
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 14 Oct 16	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #8	
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 21 Oct 23	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #9	
<b>Week 10</b> Oct 28 Oct 30	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #10	<b>Journal due #2 (at least 5 entries) 10/30</b>
<b>Week 11</b> Nov 4 Nov 6	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #11	
<b>Week 12</b> Nov 11 Nov 13	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #12	
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 18 Nov 20	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #13	<b>Dance Concert Reflection Paper due 11/20</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 25	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #14	<b>Thanksgiving Break No class 11/26-30</b>
<b>Week 15</b> Dec 2 Dec 4	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #15	<b>Journal due #3 (at least 5 entries) 12/2</b>
<b>FINAL Date</b>			<b>FINAL Exam Tuesday, 12/16, 4:30pm</b>

## **Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html), (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

## **Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommend

## **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.