



**DANC 183A: BALLET**  
**Section 22390R**  
**Fall 2018**  
**2 Units**  
**Day: M/W**  
**Time: 12:00-1:20**  
**Location: KDC 220**  
**Instructor: Jennifer Lott**  
**Office: KDC 224**  
**Office Hours: To be scheduled by email**  
**Contact Info: lottj@usc.edu**

## Catalogue Description

An introduction to Classical Ballet technique with beginning-level barre and center work, focusing on correct body alignment and musicality. Development of a basic knowledge of ballet history and terminology.

## Full Course Description

This course is designed to instruct ballet technique fundamentals at a beginning level. This class is appropriate for all students interested in learning ballet technique. The course consists of barre and center exercises, as well as an introduction to adagio, petit and grand allegro, and pirouettes.

## 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.
- Familiarity & practice of the vocabulary, etiquette & discipline of ballet training
- Beginning-level awareness of musicality and dynamics
- Beginning-level awareness of individual artistry.
- Introductory level historical knowledge of ballet

## Attendance & 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. As this is an embodied studio course, regular attendance is mandatory. Students will

be permitted 2 absences during the semester. Beginning with the 3rd absence, the grade will fall 2 points per class missed.

### **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**

YouTube videos & vocabulary study sheet will be assigned & posted on Blackboard.

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

#### **1- YouTube Viewings**

Approximately 5x/semester, students will be assigned a short YouTube viewing. These will be posted on Blackboard. We will discuss these viewings in class, and related questions will appear on your Midterm & Final exams.

#### **2- Mid-semester Self-evaluation (due via Turnitin, Monday, October 8)**

Students will write a thoughtful, detailed reflection on their experience of the course – regarding what happens within class time, as well as how ballet practice might affect activities or physical awareness outside of class. You may address challenges, areas of improvement, questions, and insights. You may relate our work in the class to experiences that you've had prior, but please also reflect on how course material might challenge you to think about aspects of movement/performance/embodiment in new ways. Finally, please refer meaningfully to at least one of the required viewings for the course. 2-3 pages; typed & double-spaced. MLA format.

#### **3- Concert Report (due via Turnitin, Wednesday, November 28)**

Students will write a short paper (2-3 pages) offering original comments on the content and format of a live dance performance given by USC Kaufman BFA Students in the course of the semester. The paper may be turned in at any point in the semester, but no later than the due date. 2-3 pages; typed & double-spaced. MLA format.

Reservations are recommended for Kaufman School performances. Visit <https://kaufman.usc.edu/> for a list of upcoming productions, and to reserve your seat. Reservations go live a few weeks before performance date.

### **Performance Opportunity:**

**The Elective Experience: Friday, November 30, 6:30 & 8pm** *(subject to change)*

At the end of the semester, you are invited to perform in The Elective Experience, a concert of works by all of the elective classes at the Kaufman School. Our class will present one work on the program, using material we work on during class time. I encourage you to invite your friends and family to this free concert, and to make their reservations early! The Elective Experience is very popular and will almost certainly sell out.

### 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:** Wednesday, October 3  
**Final Exam:** Friday, December 7, 11am-1pm

### Grading Breakdown

40% Lesson progress, preparation and achievement as evidenced by active participation and accomplishment of in-class work observed by teacher  
 15% Mid-semester self-evaluation  
 15% Dance Concert Reflection Paper  
 15% Mid-Term Exam  
 15% Final Exam

A+ = 100 points	C+ = 78-80 points
A = 96-99 points	C = 75-77 points
A- = 91-95 points	C- = 71-74 points
B+ = 88-90 points	D+ = 67-70 points
B = 85-87 points	D- = 61-63 points
B- = 81-84 points	F = 60 or below

### Schedule (Subject to Change):

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
<u>Week 1</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #1	
<u>Week 2</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 3</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #2	
<u>Week 4</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 5</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #3	
<u>Week 6</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		

<u>Week 7</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		MIDTERM: Wednesday, October 3
<u>Week 8</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		Mid-semester self-assessment due in class Monday, October 8
<u>Week 9</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #4	
<u>Week 10</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 11</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 12</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	YouTube Viewing #5	
<u>Week 13</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 14</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		
<u>Week 15</u>	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises		Dance Concert Reflection Paper due Wednesday, November 28
<u>Friday, Nov. 30</u>	***Elective Experience, Times TBA***		
<b>FINAL</b>	Final Exam – Friday, December 7, 11am-1pm		

### 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.

Phones will not be allowed and should not be visible during class. Texting or internet engagement during class time will result in lowering of your class grade. Your attention during class time is greatly appreciated, and also required.

Please Note: This class takes place at a university committed to equity for all students, where diversity and inclusion are considered critical to the academic environment. In this classroom, free speech is respected, and civil discourse is expected, with a safe learning environment the priority. We will endeavor to use language that is respectful—sometimes being inquisitive and creative, because language changes all the time— particularly when it comes to differences in age, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, race or socioeconomic status. If you have a preferred gender pronoun that is not being used, please advise the professor.

### 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 Part B, Section 11,

“Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). 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>.

### **Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

*USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.*

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)