

Section 49763 Tues & Thurs 9:00-9:50am  
 Section 49765 Tues & Thurs 10:00-10:50am  
 Section 49963 Friday 10:00-11:50am  
 Section 49964 Friday 12:00-1:50pm

Instructor: Jennifer Guinter, MA, LMT  
 Office hours by appointment  
 Email: guinter@usc.edu  
 Phone: 213-740-2488

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class is an introduction to Yoga practice emphasizing the philosophy of Classical Yoga as recorded in Patañjali's *Yoga Sūtras*. Attention will be given to physical alignment, breathing techniques, and improving concentration skills. Each class will end with a short relaxation segment.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Introduce students to the fundamentals of a Yoga practice in a safe, supportive, and academic environment.
- Demonstrate proper technique and body alignment in each *āsana* (posture).
- Understand how each of the *āsanas* relate to overall health and fitness.
- Identify physical and psychological benefits of Yoga.
- Learn Sanskrit terminology relating to *āsanas* and the *Yoga Sūtras*.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- 1.) **Students will understand the importance of sound health and fitness principles as they relate to better health and will be able to:**
  - Recognize the physical and mental benefits of increased activity.
  - Understand anatomy, basic biomechanical principles and terminology.
- 2.) **Students will be exposed to a variety of activities providing them the opportunity to:**
  - Apply learned fundamental skills.
  - Empower themselves by setting and working toward realistic individual goals.
  - Participate in a motivating and nurturing environment resulting in greater sense of well-being & self-esteem.
  - Participate in active learning to stimulate continued inquiry about physical education, health and fitness.
- 3.) **Students will demonstrate proficiency through knowledge and acquired skills enabling them to:**
  - Create a safe, progressive, methodical and efficient activity based plan to enhance improvement and minimize risk of injury.
  - Identify common health & fitness myths along with trends involved with the evolving nature of physical education.

- Develop an appreciation of physical activity as a lifetime pursuit and a means to better health.

**COURSE READER** Course reader available on Blackboard. For further reading consider purchasing *A Life Worth Breathing: A Yoga Master's Handbook of Strength, Grace, and Healing* by Max Strom, available as a paperback, Kindle, or audiobook.

**USC BLACKBOARD™**: <https://blackboard.usc.edu>

In addition to the course reader, class information and additional resources will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Assignment #1	15	7.5%
Assignment #2	15	7.5%
Midterm	50	25%
Final	50	25%
Practical Exam	20	10%
Attendance & Participation	50	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Point/grade-base cutoffs**

**A: 180-200**

**B: 160-180**

**C: 140-160**

**D: 120-140**

**F: Below 120**

Plus and minus will be issued for each grade, based on percentage range.

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

Because this is a Physical Education course, regular attendance is required for the participation portion of the grade, and is a large component of your final grade. Tardiness and/or leaving early will not be tolerated, as it disrupts the class and practice. If you are late or leave early, you will only receive partial credit for attending the class. You will be expected to attend the section for which you are enrolled. Make-ups for extenuating circumstances are allowed in the other Friday Yoga 102a class, but only upon approval from the instructor.

**You cannot make-up the Midterm and Final, and extra credit work is not available.** It is your responsibility to attend class consistently and fulfill the requirements of this course.

### **EQUIPMENT & LOCKERS:**

**Students must bring their own yoga mat.** All additional props will be provided in class: straps, blankets, bolsters, and blocks. Please bring a hand towel and water if needed. **Please return equipment neatly after use** in the storage cabinets in the hall next to the Yoga Room.

USC Physical Education is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property. If you choose to bring any valuables to class, it is strongly recommended that they be locked up during class. Locker rooms are available in the PE building and Lyons Center. Locker Rooms are open from 7:30am-3pm M-TH. Purchase locks in PED 107 (PE office). Lockers need to be cleared out the week of the PE Dept. finals.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE & CLASS POLICIES:**

- Arrive to class on time.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Wear athletic clothing that allows freedom of movement. No shoes or socks are worn during practice.
- Avoid practicing yoga on a full stomach. Wait two hours after a meal or one hour after a light snack. No candy or chewing gum during practice.
- **Turn off cell phones.**
- Refer to Blackboard for additional handouts and assignments.
- **Notify your instructor of any existing injuries, health problems, and medical conditions – *including pregnancy* - on the first class meeting. If you develop any new injuries, health problems, and medical conditions and/or become pregnant during the semester, you must inform your instructor. This will be kept STRICTLY confidential.**

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday – Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm. The office is in the Student Union 301 and the phone number is (213) 740-0776.

### **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 & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7*

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)

YOGA 120A: COURSE OUTLINE			
Topic		Note	Reading
<b>Week 1: Aug 20- Aug 24</b>			
Lecture	Introduction and Review of Syllabus; Guidelines & Methodology		
Practice	Introduction to <i>Āsana</i> , Breathing, and Alignment with Props		
<b>Week 2: Aug 27- Aug 31</b>			
Lecture	Foundations: The Origins & Evolution of Yoga and Patañjali's <i>Yoga Sūtras</i>		p. 1-5
Practice	Introduction to <i>Āsana</i> , Breathing, and Alignment with Props		
<b>Week 3: Sept 3- Sept 7</b>			
Lecture	1 <sup>st</sup> Limb of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <b>Yamas</b> Five Guidelines on Social Conduct		p. 6-7
Practice	Introduction to <i>Āsana</i> , Breathing, and Alignment with Props		
<b>Last day to change grading options (Letter Grade, P/NP, Audit)</b>			
<b>Week 4: Sept 10- Sept 14</b>			
Lecture	2 <sup>nd</sup> Limb of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <b>Niyamas</b> Five Guidelines on Internal/Moral Observances		p. 7-8
Practice	Introduction to <i>Āsana</i> , Breathing, and Alignment with Props		
<b>Week 5: Sept 17- Sept 21</b>			
Lecture	3 <sup>rd</sup> Limb of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <b>Āsana</b>		p. 8-14
Practice	A closer look at <i>Sūryanamaskar</i> A&B		
<b>HW due</b>	<b>Yamas &amp; Niyamas Writing Assignment (typed or handwritten)</b>	15 points	
<b>Week 6: Sept 24- Sept 28</b>			
Lecture	4 <sup>th</sup> Limb of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <b>Prāṇāyāma</b>		p. 15-18
Practice	<i>Āsana</i> with breathing practices (props recommended but optional)		
<b>Week 7: Oct 1- Oct 5</b>			
Lecture	5 <sup>th</sup> Limb of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <b>Pratyahāra</b> Sense Withdrawal or Inwardness		p. 18-21
Practice	Self-guided <i>āsana</i> with breath (props recommended but optional) A closer look at meditation, <i>mudras</i> , and <i>mantras</i>		
<b>10/5: Last day to change grading option to pass/no pass or drop without a W</b>			
<b>Week 8: Oct 8- Oct 12</b>			
REVIEW	Midterm Review		
<b>TEST</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>	50 points	

<b>Week 9: Oct 15- Oct 19</b>			
Lecture	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> Limbs of <i>Ashtanga-Yoga</i> : <i>Dhāraṇa</i> , <i>Dhyāna</i> and <i>Samādhi</i> Concentration, Meditation, and Absorption		p. 22-26
Practice	Concentration in <i>āsana</i> and meditation		
<b>Week 10: Oct 22- Oct 26</b>			
Lecture	Modern Yoga & Establishing Flow		Article
Practice	Vinyasa flow and meditation (props recommended but optional)		
<b>Week 11: Oct 29- Nov 2</b>			
Lecture	Modern Yoga & Establishing a Personal Practice		Article
Practice	Yoga for shoulder and spinal health		
<b>HW due</b>	<b>Writing Assignment: Yoga in Your Week (7 days, handwritten journal)</b>	15 points	
<b>Week 12: Nov 5- Nov 9</b>			
Lecture	Practical & Final Review		
Practice	Yoga Nidra & Restorative Yoga		
<b>11/9: Last day to drop with a W</b>			
<b>Week 13: Nov 12- Nov 16</b>			
<b>REVIEW</b>	Practical & Final Review		
<b>TEST</b>	<b>PRACTICAL TEST</b>	20 points	
<b>Week 14: Nov 19- Nov 23</b>			
Lecture	Mindfulness Movement & Meditation		
Practice	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>		
<b>Week 15: Nov26- Nov 30</b>			
<b>TEST</b>	<b>FINAL TEST</b>	50 points	

**\*Please note this is a tentative outline and may be subject to change.  
Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.**