**DANC 185a: Hip Hop Dance**

**Section 22418R**

**Spring 2020**

**2 units**

**Day:** TUE/THU

**Time:** 12:00pm-1:20pm

**Location:** KDC 106

**Instructor:** Shannon Johnson Grayson

**Office:** KDC 222

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

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

**Catalog Description**

An introduction to elements of Hip Hop Dance, including technique, movement, musical rhythm, tempo, and phrasing, as well as the historical context required to develop skills needed to practice and perform this popular dance form.

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to offer the student a greater understanding of Hip Hop Dance and its integrity as an art form. Students will gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, and musicality. Students will also be introduced to the historical context of Hip Hop, which includes the development of its culture and music along with the dance. Hip Hop is an important contemporary dance form for dancers to learn. It is a social and theatrical dance form that addresses feelings, tells stories, and responds to current events.

**Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will:

* Learn basic movement technique through the medium of Hip Hop dance and music
* Gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, and musicality
* Compose Hip Hop choroegraphy through class explorations of the rythmic and lyrical content in Hip Hop music
* Explore the importance of self-expression, individuality, presenting their unique personality in movement, and communicating the context of the dance.
* Learn the historical context of Hip Hop, which includes the development of its culture and music along with the 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 **Wednesday, May 13th,** **2020- 2pm-4pm.**

The **Mid-Term** is scheduled during class on **Thursday, March 5th,** **2020- during class**. **Only 3 permitted absences per semester**. Two points will be deducted for every additional absence and half of a point will be deducted for every tardy. The student 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: **(Due the day of Final Exam)**

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/.

The show options are listed below:

* Paul Taylor Celebration: USC Kaufman and USC Thornton Performance - 2/26 6pm and 8pm
* USC Kaufman Debut at The Broad Stage 4/17-4/19

**Performance Opportunity: The Elective Experience: Friday, May 1st, 2020**

**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.

**Proper Attire for Technique Class:**

Proper attire consists of work out attire: t-shirts, tank tops, gym sneakers/tennis shoes, sweat pants, gym shorts (no jeans allowed and shoes are mandatory). **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.** While observing class you must write out your obsevations and turn it into the instructor at the end of class. This will serve as a ½ absence. If you are late and observe class, but do not turn in written observations at the end of class, you will receive a full absence.

**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\*\*( Syllabus is subject to change)**

* **Weeks 1-4** (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will learn the basic fundamentals of Hip Hop movement (warm up, combinations, across the floor steps) and have an introduction to the social and Vernacular dances of the Hip Hop culture development. Students will also be introduced to choreography and practice movement retention.
* **Weeks 5-8** (and continuing throughout the quarter):  Students will continue to learn more complex techniques (footwork, isolations) and progressions (across the floor). Students will demonstrate short, choreographed movement combinations based on material covered in the course. Students will also be introduced to foundational (historical) techniques, dances, and styles of Hip Hop.

**\*Mid-term,** **Wednesday, March 5th,** **2020- during class**

* **Weeks 9-12** (and continuing throughout the quarter):   Students will compose a short Hip Hop combination/choreography by responding to rhythms and music provided by the instructor.
* **Weeks 13-15:** The students will demonstrate a choreographed combination based on the fundamentals of Hip Hop dance 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. Final Date: **Wednesday, May 13th,** **2020- 2pm-4pm**

**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 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 Physical Contact**  
   
As an embodied art form, dancing is a physical and an emotional act. In the process of studying dance, students often experience physical contact with their instructors and peers. Faculty members may use touch to provide proprioceptive and kinesthetic feedback to students; they may use touch to correct alignment, improve technique, and promote healthier movement practices. In some classes, particularly those involving partnering, students’ will experience physical contact with their peers. As developing artists experimenting with modes of expression, students may also experience a variety of emotions in the classroom. As such, it is imperative that the studio classroom be a safe, inclusive, and respectful space for all students and faculty. Open and honest communication and respectful and considerate interactions are always expected and are a fundamental requirement of studying in the USC Kaufman School of Dance.  Unless otherwise articulated to a faculty member or peer, consent to discipline-specific and appropriate touching is assumed. Students always have the right to revoke that consent and should express any discomfort they feel in the classroom to the faculty instructor or Vice Dean immediately. USC Kaufman seeks to nurture compassionate artists who respect the dignity, humanity, and personal embodied experience of all individuals.

**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. 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

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

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

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

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

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

The Office of Disability Services and Programs Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. 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

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

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

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

**Emergency Operations Procedures** *“In the event of a university-wide emergency, guidance and directions will be shared by Campus Emergency Operations in all available outlets, including the website and TrojanAlerts. Students are encouraged to maintain close contact with all available communications avenues for updates to university operations.  USC Kaufman will abide by all university protocols and recommendations.  If the Kaufman Dance Center is not available when classes resume, students can receive updates from the school's Departmental Operations Center (DOC) on Ramo Lawn (between the Thornton School of Music and Norris Cinema, close to the Bing Theatre).”*