



DANC 183A: BALLET
Section 22397

FALL 2020

2 Units

Day: Monday/Wednesday

Time: 9:00am - 10:20am

Location: Online Course

Instructor: Shannon Grayson

Office: Email

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

Contact Info: sjgrayso@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 is an embodied studio online course 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.

Course Notes

Students are encouraged to use whatever one has in their living space (counter top, chair, stool, any sold standing item that is waist level height) as a ballet barre to warm up for the beginning of every class. Regular attendance and physical participation in class are mandatory. A zoom link will be posted on blackboard and emailed directly to you before each class. All class updates and assignments will also be emailed and posted on Blackboard one hour before class begins. Some classes may be prerecorded with questions to answer and participation will include emailing the answers to the questions asked in class. More details will be explained on this in class. Students will be permitted 3 absences during the semester. Beginning with the 3rd absence, total grades will fall 2 percentage points per class missed. Please refer to syllabus for assignment deadlines.

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.

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. Attire should be clean and show the body modestly and allow for full range of motion: leotard, pink or black full-length tights, yoga and/or close-fitting work-out attire, dance belt, ballet slippers with elastic.

Required Text

Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet Documents will be emailed to keep and study.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

YouTube Viewing

Students will be assigned short YouTube viewing throughout the semester. This will help with processing vocabulary and technique applications. There will also be a few clips shared of professional performances.

Mid-Term and Final Exam

The Mid-Term Exam will be a physical portion on combinations learned and written exam on ballet vocabulary handout. The Final Exam will be a physical exam of traditional class exercises.

Mid-Term: Wednesday, September 30- 9am-10:20am

Final Exam: Monday, November 23- 11am-1pm

Performance Opportunity: The Elective Experience: (Time and Date will be announced)

At the end of the semester, our class will be invited to video perform in The Elective Experience, a concert of works by all of the elective classes at the Kaufman School. Our class will present one video work on the program, using material we worked on during class time.

Grading Breakdown

20% Attendance

20% Participation (discussions, movement)

30% Mid-semester Evaluation and Written exam (Danced portion 15 %, Written Exam 15%)

30% Final Exam (Dance Portion 30%)

A = 95-100 points

A- = 91-94 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 = 64-66 points

D- = 61-63 points

F = 60 or below

Policy and Guidelines for Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Students should plan to attend every synchronous session for the classes in which they are enrolled, irrespective of when it occurs in their time zone. However, policies around attendance and participation for this class are sensitive to the challenges of remote learning. The professor will maintain normal attendance, participation, and assessment expectations, for students when the class time falls within reasonable learning hours in the student's time zone, defined as 7:00am to 10:00pm. However, if the class falls outside those hours, these accommodations will be extended. If a student cannot participate in a synchronous component, they can successfully complete the learning objectives set for this class without any grade penalty by reviewing recordings, completing homework or assignments. After viewing a class recording, please email the professor that you have reviewed the recording and answer the one technical/historical question of the day/class. All major assessments and exams will also be scheduled such that students have the opportunity to complete the assessment between 7:00am and 10:00pm in their time zone. If this requires rescheduling an exam session or adding a second session, the professor will make every effort to accommodate the impacted students. The professor will also schedule some office hours during times that accommodate students in alternate time zones. If a student lives in time zones that don't allow reasonable office hour adjustments, the professor will set up an alternative method of communication (email/zoom meeting) that will emulate the personal interaction students would receive during office hours.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory as all of our work is done online in each session. There will be **THREE** 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 15 minutes or more will constitute an absence. Further, three tardy attendances 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 7-point deduction of active participation points. Please keep communication open with professor to avoid any of these factors.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/Due Dates	Other
WEEK 1 Aug 17 Aug 19	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 2 Aug 24 Aug 26	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			

WEEK 3 Aug 31 Sep 2	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	Written Handouts Distributed (Vocab/position photo's)		
WEEK 4 Sep 7 Sep 9	No class- Labor Day- Sep 7th			
WEEK 5 Sep 14 Sep 15	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 6 Sep 21 Sep 23	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 7 Sep 28 Sep 30	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 8 Oct 5 Oct 7	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises	MIDTERM-Written Vocabulary exam and physical exam		
WEEK 9 Oct 12 Oct 14	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 10 Oct 19 Oct 21	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 11 Oct 26 Oct 28	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 12 Nov 2 Nov 4	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
WEEK 13 Nov 9 Nov 11	Beginning-level ballet barre and center exercises			
	FINAL EXAM: <u>Monday, November 23- 11am-1pm</u>			

Additional Policies

Class Conduct

Please have a paper notebook and writing instrument near you in class; laptops, notebooks, tablets and other technology will only be permitted at certain times. 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.

Class Conduct---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 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, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

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.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

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).”

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.

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.