



DANC 189a: Jazz Dance
Section 22405

Fall 2020

2 units

Day: T/TH

Time: 9:00am-10:20am

Location: Online

Instructor: Shannon Johnson Grayson

Office: Online

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

Contact Info: sjgrayso@usc.edu

Course Description

The Jazz dance course is designed to teach the student basic movement technique and vocabulary of Jazz dance. Students will progress through the process of learning and executing warm up exercises, across the floor combinations, choreography and written assignments. Students will also be guided to explore the importance of self-expression, individuality, presenting their unique personality in movement, and communicating the context of the dance.

Course Notes

As an embodied online course, the purpose of this course is to offer the student a greater understanding of Jazz 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 Jazz dance, which include its development from cultural social dances, music, and great influence from African American traditions and Ballet technique. Jazz dance is an important dance form for dancers to learn. It is used in theatre, commercial work, and incorporates the basics of ballet and modern dance.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Develop a greater understanding of Jazz Dance and its integrity as an art form
- Gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, articulation, alignment and musicality.
- Develop an understanding of the importance and impact of the historical content of cultural social dances and music on Jazz dance movement
- Demonstrate basic combinations utilizing basic jazz dance vocabulary and technique.
- Demonstrate understanding of choreography, improvisation, and performance

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:

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 on the date as published in the USC schedule of classes for Fall Semester 2020, **Thursday- November 19th-8am-10am**. The **Mid-Term** is scheduled during class on **Thursday, October 1st, 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:

Mid-Term:

Students are required to be in class for the final exam, so note the date.

- **Thursday, October 1st, 2020 during class.**

Elective Experience Performance:

Students are expected to share/perform material from class at this online showcase

Date of performance TBA

Final Exam:

Students are required to be in class for the final exam, so note the date.

- **Thursday- November 19th-8am-10am**

Proper Attire for Technique Class:

Students are requested to have Jazz shoes. Proper attire consists of form fitting workout attire: leotards, tank tops, fitted t-shirts, jazz/yoga pants/capris/leggings or gym shorts (no jeans allowed and only shoes allowed are ballet or jazz shoes). No over-sized or baggy attire please. Items can be purchased online or at neighborhood dance wear supply stores. Dance shoes can be purchased online or at any dance store. Be sure to check size conversions as some dance shoes are sized differently than normal shoes.

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.

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 participating online, and will affect grades as well.

Grading Scale and Point Values:

Grading Breakdown

20% Attendance

20% Participation (discussions, movement)

30% Mid-semester Evaluation (Danced portion 30%)

30% Final Exam (Written Vocab exam 15%, Danced portion 15%)

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
60 or below			F =

COURSE CONTENT

Weeks 1-3 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Intro to the course and syllabus. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of jazz movement (warm up, combinations, across the floor steps). Students will also be introduced to choreography and practice movement retention. ***Written Vocabulary sheet will be emailed out.***

Weeks 4-6 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will begin to be able to independently execute warm up and receive feedback. Greater depth of musicality will be discussed and processed. Vocabulary and Jazz articles/video footage will be shared. Students will have an introduction to the Social and Vernacular dances of the Jazz dance and its development.

- **Mid-term, Thursday, October 1st, 2020 during class.**

Weeks 7-9 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will continue to learn more complex center technique and progression across the floor. Students will demonstrate short, choreographed jazz dance combinations based on material covered in the course.

Weeks 10-13: The students will demonstrate a choreographed combination based on the fundamentals of Jazz dance technique acquired throughout the course. Students will be asked to perform in The Elective Experience presentation. Written Vocabulary/Text will be given.

Class 14: The final exam (*Physical and Written Vocab*) will be a presentation of all elements practiced throughout the semester.

FINAL: Thursday- November 19th-8am-10am

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.

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)

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)."

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.

****This syllabus and course calendar can be amended at any time by the instructor, based on the instructor's discretion***