



**DANC 189a: Tap Dance
Section 22449**

Fall 2020

2 units

Day: TUE/THURS

Time: 12:00pm-1:20pm

Location: Online

Instructor: Shannon Grayson

Office: Online

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

Contact Info: sjgrayso@usc.edu

Catalog Description

An introduction to basic Tap Dance technique, rhythms, syncopation, and musicality, developing into complex steps and elementary dances with progressive understanding of weight change, improvisation, and combinations of sound.

Course Description

As an embodied studio online course, this beginning level course introduces students to basic steps, rhythms, vocabulary, musicality and movement skills as well as the basic historical and cultural background of tap dance.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Attain proper tap dance technique within warm-ups and combinations.
- Develop improved strength, flexibility, and rhythmic understanding.
- Demonstrate basic combinations utilizing beginning tap dance vocabulary.
- Illustrate understanding of rhythmic weight changes and beginning musical skills.
- Compose a tap dance combination by responding to rhythms provided by the instructor.
- Demonstrate correct performance of combinations learned in class.
- Examine basic historical and cultural contexts of tap dance.

Description of Assignments and Participation:

In-class Participation:

- **If you do not have a tap board, use a hard surface, or piece of wood to perform tap steps with tap shoes**
- 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.
- **If you are unable to participate in class due to injury, please take detailed notes on the material covered. Notes taken will be emailed and evaluated by instructor at the end of class**
- If you must leave class early, please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class.

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 spring semester 2020, **Thursday, November 19, 2020, from 11am-1pm**. 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 mid-term 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 virtual showcase at the end of the semester

- **Date and time TBA**

Final Exam:

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

Students will *write a short essay on a class video shown explaining Tap history* video and students will be given a physical exam.

- **Thursday, November 19, 2020, from 11am-1pm.**

Proper Attire for Technique Class:

Students are required to have tap shoes. Jazz pants, easy fitting pants and/or shorts and form-fitting workout clothes are acceptable. 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.

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 class, and will affect grades as well.

Grading Scale and Point Values:

20% Attendance

20% Participation (discussions, movement)

30% Mid-semester physical Exam (Dance 30%)

30% Final Exam (Video/Document essay 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 F = 60 or below

COURSE CONTENT

Weeks 1-3 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will learn stretching and warm up exercises to aid in proper articulation of the foot and ankle. Students will learn basic Tap dance steps, vocabulary, and technique as well as simple rhythm and syncopation at the barre and in center.

Weeks 4-7 (and continuing throughout the quarter): Students will continue to learn more complex tap technique in enter and Tap progressions (across the floor). Students will demonstrate short, choreographed Tap dance combinations based on material covered in the course.

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

Weeks 8-10 (and continuing throughout the quarter): *Video footage and Tap written document will be viewed*. Students will compose a short Tap dance combination by responding to rhythms provided by the instructor. Continuation of complex tap steps will be learned

Weeks 11-13: The students will demonstrate a choreographed combination based on the fundamentals of Tap dance technique acquired throughout the course. Students will be asked to perform in The Elective Experience presentation and attend BFA student performance showcase for class credit.

Week 14: The final exam will be a presentation of all elements practiced throughout the semester.

- **Thursday, November 19, 2020, from 11am-1pm.**

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)

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***

