

DANC 499: Kathak
Section 22578
Fall 2020
1 Unit
Wednesday, 6:30-7:50 p.m.
Online
Instructor: Achinta S. McDaniel
Pronouns: She/Her
Virtual Office Hours: M/W By Appointment
Contact Information: achintam@usc.edu

Catalog Description

Introduction to classical Indian dance form Kathak, emphasizing practice of basic movements, footwork, rhythm, storytelling, and expression, and study of historical and cultural context.

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the practice, aesthetics, and history of North Indian classical dance form, Kathak. One of the eight Indian classical dance forms, Kathak embodies Hindu and Islamic stylistic and cultural influences, and has a rich evolutionary history incorporating rhythmic interplay, improvisation, and storytelling. The course includes a study of this rich history, while focusing on embodied practice of footwork, facial expression, spins, hand gesture, posture, and rhythmic recitation.

Learning Objectives

- Perform and identify basic Kathak dance elements and vocabulary, including footwork (tatkaar), turns (chakkar), hand gesture (hastak), expression (abhinaya), and recitation of rhythm (taal) and syllables (bols).
- Understand and practice the relationship between the movement, rhythm, expression, storytelling, and music.
- Develop an awareness of the context and history related to performing Kathak dance.
- Recognize and analyze how the west performs, consumes and accepts Kathak dance.

Online Reading/Viewings:

Walker, Margaret E., Howard, Keith. India's Kathak Dance in Historical Perspective. Taylor & Francis Group: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/socal/reader.action?docID=1746971&ppg=1> and available through ARES: <https://reserves.usc.edu/ares/> In-class and brief assigned readings to be assigned from this book.

Students can expect some in-class and assigned video viewings to be provided by professor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory because the majority of the course material is covered in class. All students are expected to actively engage and participate (see In-Class Work Policy below) in each class, **including auditing students**. There will be one excused absence allowed (no doctor's notes are necessary). Tardiness of 15 minutes or more will constitute an absence. Further, three tardy attendances of less than 15 minutes will also constitute an absence. For group assignments, be sure to notify your fellow classmates of your absence (48) forty-eight hours prior to the class session. For time zone issues with class meetings and exams, contact professor for accommodation.

In-Class Work

Be present! This is dance class. It will be fun! Students will contribute to the learning environment by dancing of course, completing in-class assignments, giving peer feedback, and engaging in group discussions and short, oral and practical demonstrations. Other work may include worksheets and responses to polls. Students are graded on thoughtful participation and completion of work. Make up assignments for in-class work are available for students with serious extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Proper Attire for Technique Class

Comfortable clothing which does not hide your movement and body posture is required. Barefoot dancing is required. Ghungroos (ankle bells) are optional. No accessories or noisy jewelry which interfere with lectures and practice please. **After reading this paragraph, write me a one-sentence e-mail to introduce yourself: achintam@usc.edu.**

Zoom Guidelines

Mute microphones at unless prompted by instructor. Unless instructed otherwise, students will dance in each synchronous Zoom class meeting. With this in mind, appropriate space and surroundings will be necessary (i.e. lying down on your sofa and eating is not an appropriate way to show up for Zoom Kathak class.) No eating during class time. Be prepared to dance in your space your space wisely and safely. Zoom recordings of class will be provided from time to time.

Technology Policy

Mobile phones/electronic devices MUST be placed on “Do Not Disturb” mode: Even in the Zoom space, unless devices are required for private, official DSP accommodations, do not use mobile devices during class time; If you check your phone, text message, make or take phone calls during class time, expect your grade to be affected negatively. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave class for that day and marked “absent.”

Recordings but are not to be posted on any commercial website or social media platform, and are not to be shared in any way apart from for use of learning the coursework. Students are not to record other students’ presentations or movement demonstrations, unless permission is granted by students and professor.

Communication Policy

E-mails from official usc.edu addresses are to be used by students when corresponding with professor. *First ask yourself: Did I consult my syllabus?*

Grading Breakdown

There are a total of 100 points for the quarter. Students earn the 100 points by completing the Midterm (20), Final (25), Assignments (15), In-Class Work (25), and Attendance (15). The Midterm and Final exams and group projects require individual and collective participation.

Letter Grade Requirements:

Attendance	15%
In-Class Work	30%
Assignments	15%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%

Grading Scale:	95-100 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	59 and below F
	90-94 A-	84-86 B	74-76 C	64-66 D	
		80-83 B-	70-73 C-	60-63 D-	

Course Schedule

WEEKS 1-4

- Orientation/expectations and course overview, anticipated outcomes
- Study history and evolution of Kathak dance: Short section of Walker Reading (above) will be assigned and due by Week 4, as research for your assigned paper (see below)
- Learn Namaskar movement and recitation
- Learn Tatkaar (Footwork) in Teentaal in speeds 1-4
- Learn to recite Bols

Assignment 1, Due Week 4, September 9th: 1-page, 2 paragraph maximum write-up on the origins and evolution of Kathak dance as studied and discussed in-class, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, single spaced, via Blackboard. Rubric will be provided by professor. Students will share their findings via discussion in-class Week 4.

WEEKS 5-8

- Learn Hastaks (Hand gestures)
- Learn Taal rhythmic recitation
- Learn Chakkars (turns)
- Learn choreographed combination

Midterm Exam Week 8, October 7th: Verbal and Practical Skills/Knowledge Test including demonstrating Namaskar, Teentaal Tatkaar: Speeds 1-4; Group performance of choreography learnt.

WEEKS 9-13

- Continue practice, adding more complicated rhythms, turns
- Learn about Western/Global consumption of Kathak as a dance practice and performance form
- Prepare for final exam and Elective Experience* performance

Assignment 2, Partner Assignment (2 students share the assignment) Due Week 11, October 28th: Research and select 2 Kathak dance videos of two varieties of your choosing, i.e. 1 Dance Class/Tutorial and 1 Dance Performance; or 1 Dance Performance in Jaipur Gharana style and 1 Dance Performance in Lucknow Gharana style; or 1 Kathak performance in a film and 1 Live Kathak Performance. Analyze the differences and similarities, and your reaction to these performances. Present the video via screenshare in class on October 21st, providing a brief oral explanation and introduction citing the context and the differences, and your reaction/critique. 5 Minute Maximum Presentation. Rubric will be provided by instructor.

***Elective Experience Live Performance** with all USC Kaufman Elective Dance Classes: **November 9, 2020** via Zoom, Time TBA

FINAL EXAM: November 18, 4:30 p.m.

Choreography performance as a group; solo skills test which includes some or all of the following: verbal recitation, footwork, turns, questions on history/facets of Kathak dance.

Academic Conduct and Support Systems:

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” <https://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. <https://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. <http://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. <https://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: <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. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and micro aggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://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. <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. <https://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. <https://diversity.usc.edu/e12>

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, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

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

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>