

DANC 110: Dance Technique I

Section 22351D, 22352D

Spring 2021

Units: 3

Day: M-F

Time: M-Th 8:00am-10:30am

F 2:00-3:30pm Pacific Time

Location: Online via Zoom/KDC

Instructors: Gillian Finley,
Randi Fleckenstine, Jodie Gates,
d. Sabela Grimes, Jackie Kopcsak,
Jennifer McQuinston Lott, Fiona Lummis,
Anindo Marshall, Bruce McCormick,

Professor of Record: Patrick Corbin

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00am-11:00am
and by appointment

Contact Info: pcorbin@usc.edu

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Fundamental technique studies in a studio setting. Concentration on classical ballet, hip hop and its derivatives, Dunham and contemporary techniques essential to the dancers' development.

FULL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Foundational technique studies in a studio setting. Focus on classical ballet, hip hop and its derivatives, Dunham and contemporary techniques essential to the dancers' development. Study includes the foundational elements and vocabulary, as well as an investigation into the musical connection, culture, and history of the styles and their development.

Hip Hop dance technique builds on foundational elements of rock and bounce, developing a clear articulation of spine, isolations, grounded movement vocabulary and musicality. Building community through social dance practices is a fundamental aspect of the class and a fundamental part of Hip Hop culture and is integral to the way class is taught.

Ballet classes offer opportunities to develop greater strength, flexibility, balance, coordination and kinesiological awareness through codified barre and center exercises. Aesthetic and theoretical explorations include dynamic approaches to musicality, *épaulement*, full-bodied movement, coordinative relationships and use of space.

Contemporary: We will define and practice Contemporary Technique as a progressive understanding of coordination, paired with, but not exclusively governed by form. Through reorientation with essential motor functions (ex. flexing, extending, opposing, rotating, swinging, shifting weight,

falling) we will practice increasing our capacity for observing what is happening and then shaping responses to the motivations leading our physical bodies in space.

Dunham Technique is a combination of disciplines – ballet and modern combined with ethnic movement from such countries as Haiti, Brazil, Cuba, and several African countries. It is a way of life, not just in the art of dance, but in the art of life. The students will be exposed to the technique from beginning to intermediate levels. They will learn Dunham Technique vocabulary at the Barre, Center floor, Dunham Progressions, including Progressions in Cultural Context and Dunham Technique Choreographed work.

Recommended Preparation: hip hop, ballet, pointe studies, modern, contemporary and/or jazz studies suggested.

COURSE NOTES

This class is reserved for first year BFA Dance majors. All students are expected to enroll and participate each semester in the appropriate level of the technique series throughout their academic career.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Technique classes will include the following forms: Ballet, Dunham, Hip Hop, and Contemporary. The work will increase in complexity including elements of movement and musicality, control, stamina and strength. The Final Exam will take place **Monday, May 10, 11:00AM**

HOLIDAYS/WELLNESS DAYS/TAPER WEEKS THIS SEMESTER

There will be no classes on the following days this semester:

Wellness Days:

Week 8 - Friday, March 12^[SEP]

Week 10 - Tuesday, March 23

Week 12 - ^[SEP]Wednesday, April 7^[SEP]

Week 14 - ^[SEP]Thursday, April 22^[SEP]

Week 15 ("Last day" of classes) - ^[SEP]Friday, April 30^[SEP]

Holidays:

Week 1 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Week 5 - President's Day: Monday, February 15

Taper Weeks: Weeks 14 & 15 (Monday, April 19-Thursday, April 29)

Technique reduced to one class/day. Schedule will be posted on TeamUp.

Course Schedule

SCHEDULE for SECTION 22351

Monday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	Ballet Dunham

Tuesday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	*Ballet or Hip Hop Hip Hop

Wednesday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	Ballet Dunham

Thursday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	*Ballet or Hip Hop Hip Hop

Friday	2:00pm-3:20pm	Contemporary

SCHEDULE for SECTION 22352

Monday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	*Ballet or Hip Hop Hip Hop

Tuesday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	Ballet Dunham

Wednesday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	*Ballet or Hip Hop Hip Hop

Thursday	8:00am-9:10am 9:20am-10:30am	Ballet Dunham

Friday	2:00pm-3:20pm	Contemporary

*On Breakout Days, students are expected to attend the classes to which they have committed.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This technique class is fundamental to the Dance BFA and is intended for freshman BFA Dance majors. It provides the foundation for all other studies and experiences in the major and focuses on the creation and long-term refinement of dance technique. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Employ the elements of dance technique in a variety of forms.
- Demonstrate awareness of musicality, dynamics and phrasing.
- Participate in dialogue concerning theories, contexts and history of the forms studied.
- Practice professionalism in all forms.

- Contribute to a healthy Zoom/Studio atmosphere with high levels of engagement, participation, collaboration, respect for faculty/visiting artists, fellow dancers and support of colleagues and peers.
- Complete a self-assessment of one's own progress in course material.
- Sequence complex phrase work, and verbally and physically apply concepts to those phrases.
- Identify and synthesize commonalities and contrasting qualities in diverse dance forms to enhance personal artistry and technical proficiency.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to do the following:

- Attend class every day
- Be prepared for each class with pre-warm-ups necessary for the health and wellbeing of the student's body
- Learn and remember all assigned combinations for each class
- Attend all master classes and guest lectures

REQUIRED READINGS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Readings or videos may be assigned relating to specific choreographers and forms studied.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIRED

Students will need an electronic device with access to Zoom and Blackboard for this course. They are asked to familiarize themselves with these two interfaces. Please see the links below for technology support.

USC TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT LINKS

[Zoom information for students \(https://keepteaching.usc.edu/students/student-toolkit/classroom/zoom/\)](https://keepteaching.usc.edu/students/student-toolkit/classroom/zoom/)

[Blackboard help for students \(https://studentblackboardhelp.usc.edu/\)](https://studentblackboardhelp.usc.edu/)

[Software available to USC Campus https://software.usc.edu/](https://software.usc.edu/)

USC TECHNOLOGY RENTAL PROGRAM

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please [submit an application \(https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/resources/technology-assistance/\)](https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/resources/technology-assistance/). The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

30% Journal (two 200-word entries over the course of the semester, due Weeks 7 & 13)

60% Embodied Practice

10% Final (Discussion with Professor of Record based on a prompt)

A = 95-100 points

B- = 80-83 points

D+ = 67-69 points

A- = 90-94 points

C+ = 77-79 points

D = 64-66

B+ = 87-89 points

C = 74-76 points

D- = 61-63 points

B = 84-86 points

C- = 70-73 points

F = 60 or below

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS

JOURNAL (30%)

Students will utilize the “Journal” feature on Blackboard as a space for self-reflection on their self-determination and accountability as well as mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

The overarching prompt is:

“What about the semester up to this point has shifted, complicated, supported or challenged you and/or your practice?”

Journals will be **due on the following Mondays at 11:00am:**

Week #6: Monday, February 22

Week #12: Monday, April 5

Journal entries can be informal and should be approximately 200 words (or a long paragraph) in length. Worth 100 points each; 20 points per day are deducted for late submissions.

EMBODIED PRACTICE (60%)

Acknowledging the significant challenges and inequities of this Fall 2020 Semester, students are encouraged to find ways to continue dancing. Faculty are available to support students in exploring solutions for an embodied practice.

Coming from a place of generosity and compassion during this pandemic, instructors will evaluate students in each form and provide verbal and/or written feedback.

FINAL EXAM (10%)

For the final exam, students will meet for a discussion session to reflect on the semester. A discussion prompt will be provided prior to the exam date. **Attendance at the final exam is mandatory and part of the grade for this course.**

The final meeting of this class will take place according to the USC Schedule of Classes Final Exam Schedule:

Monday, May 10, 11:00AM

Exams: All major assessments and exams will 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, every effort will be made to accommodate impacted students.

COURSE POLICIES:

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard Journals and Turnitin.

GRADING TIMELINE

Assignment grades will be posted to Grade Center two weeks after submission.

LATE WORK

Late submission policies are listed under each assignment description. If you miss submitting work due to an unavoidable emergency, please notify the instructor by email ASAP and discuss the situation with the instructor during office hours.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

In respect for our guests and one another, students are asked to refrain from texting, checking email, surfing, engaging in social media and doing schoolwork from other courses during class time.

SYNCHRONOUS PARTICIPATION

In general, 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. For this course, the weekly synchronous ZOOM sessions will be from **Monday – Thursday 8:00am-10:30am and Friday 2:00pm-3:30pm Pacific Time.**

USC SHIBBOLETH LOG-IN

Students are expected to be signed-in to their USC account prior to the start of each Zoom class session to ensure a safe and smooth experience for all students.

TIME ZONE ACCOMMODATIONS

USC considers the hours from 7:00am to 10:00pm, in the local time zone for each student, as reasonable times for students to attend synchronous sessions or engage in synchronous learning activities or assessments. Students unable to attend synchronous sessions will work out a personal plan of study with faculty.

USC's Nine International Offices: Support for international students is also available through USC's offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and South China, Taiwan, South Korea, India, UK and Europe, Brazil, and Mexico. Additional details and contact information can be found at <https://global.usc.edu/global-presence/international-offices/>.

RECORDING ONLINE CLASSES

For the Spring 2021 semester, USC policy requires that all classes conducted online be recorded for asynchronous viewing with transcriptions made available.

“CAMERA-ON” POLICY

For this course, students are expected to have their cameras on during synchronous online sessions. Students facing challenging situations (internet connectivity, illness, home environments, etc) are encouraged to use a virtual background, which will eliminate most privacy concerns, and earphones or headsets to improve audio quality. We strive to be compassionate to all students’ circumstances, and if you need additional accommodations, please contact your professor directly.

NETIQUETTE & PARTICIPATION:

Participation includes: being attentive and focused; actively participating in physical exercises, discussions, breakout rooms, and group activities; asking thoughtful questions; coming to class fully prepared; and exercising personal responsibility and consideration of others at all times. Texting/Chatting during ZOOM class sessions via cell phone and/or other private message apps will be considered highly disrespectful.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

As a general rule, absences will not be excused. Under extraordinary circumstances (i.e. prolonged contagious illness, injury, family emergency, etc.), some absences may potentially be excused. **In such instances, students are expected to communicate via email with Professor of Record (Patrick Corbin) and affected instructors on the same day of missed class.**

TARDINESS:

Tardiness is not tolerated. **Showing up late less than ten minutes counts as half an absence. Students who are more than ten minutes late to class will not be allowed to participate and will be counted as absent.**

INJURIES:

Students with serious injuries that require sitting out of class for more than three (3) days should follow the guidelines outlined in the **Student Injury Plan**. If you need to sit down during class, it is your responsibility to tell your instructor.

VIDEO & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Any footage captured during the course of a class (defined as lecture, technique, rehearsal or performance) may not be reposted on any social media channels (outside of Blackboard), now or in the future, without prior written approval from the professor. This includes Zoom video and audio recordings, as well as screenshots from Zoom. Violations of this provision may be referred to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

DRESS CODE:

There is no formal uniform for the USC Glorvia Kaufman School of Dance. However, it is expected that, out of respect for the art form, dancers take pride in how they present themselves. Below are

some general guidelines about dance attire for each class. Additional details will be provided on individual syllabi.

Ballet

Students may wear a leotard and tights with ballet slippers or pointe shoes (socks will not be permitted). If students do not choose to wear a leotard and tights, they may wear form-fitting pants and a form-fitting shirt. Ballet skirts or bike shorts of modest length may also be worn. Hair of any length should be worn off the face and off the neck. Appropriate undergarments (dance belt, sports bra, etc.) are also required. Warm-up attire will only be permitted at the start of class.

Contemporary

Acceptable bottoms include tights (long or cut off), bike shorts, close fitting sweats, and yoga pants. Acceptable tops include close fitting tees and close-fitting long-sleeve shirt shirts (for floor work). Socks are acceptable for warm up and sometimes throughout class. Knee pads are recommended.

Hip Hop

Freedom of movement is important. Therefore, loose and comfortable clothing is appropriate. Tennis shoes or sneakers can be worn. They should be clean with non-marking soles. Knee pads will be needed on occasion.

Late work

See “late submission policy” under “Performance” for video submissions and under “Journals” for journal submissions.

Grading Dispute Note

I want to make sure that your grades reflect your performance. If you feel there is an error in the grading, please let me know. To dispute a grade, you must request a review by email no sooner than one week and no later than two weeks from the date the grade was published on Blackboard. In the email you must identify yourself and the assignment you are questioning. You must provide a specific argument for the grade change, identifying the row(s) in the rubric where you feel you were mis-scored.

Attendance

In order to participate fully in this course, students are expected to be in class, on time and present. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance if a class will be missed.

Classroom norms [Expectations]

See “*NETIQUETTE & PARTICIPATION*”

KSOD Policies

Names and Pronouns

Please enter your preferred name and pronoun in your Zoom profile using the rename feature or you can request to enter this permanently by emailing consult@usc.edu.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

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.

“Call-In” Agreement

We as Kaufman faculty support conversations surrounding racial justice and encourage fostering a culture of calling people IN to the conversation as opposed to calling people out.

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.

Emergency Plan

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).

Religious Holy Days Policies

University policy grants students excused absences for observance of religious holy days. You must inform the professor at least one full week in advance to request such an excused absence. You will be given an opportunity to make up missed work if necessary.

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