**DANC 189b: Jazz Dance**

**Section 22407**

**Fall 2021**

**2 units**

**Day:** Mon/Wed

**Time:** 9:00am-10:20am

**Location:** TBA

**Instructor:** Shannon J. Grayson

**Office: KDC 222**

**Office Hours:** To be scheduled by email

**Contact Info:** sjgrayso@usc.edu

**Course Description**

Continued study of Jazz dance techniques

**Course Description**

This course is designed to strengthen students knowledge and performance of Jazz dance fundamentals, technique, and performance skills on a moderate level. Students will gain a stronger physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, and musicality. The historical context of Jazz dance including cultural social dances, music, and the significant influence from African American traditions, Modern dance and Ballet technique will also be studied more in depth. Students will learn the significance of improvisation in Jazz dance, which will enhance their presentation, confidence and story telling through movement. Both traditional and Contemporary Jazz dance elements will be taught in this class, which is reflected in both theatre and commercial work.

**Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will:

* Develop a greater understanding of Jazz Dance and its integrity as an art form (historically, artistically, and technically)
* Develop physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, articulation, alignment and musicality
* Strengthen technical skills and performance quality
* Understand the importance and impact of the improvisation, choreography, and performance
* Demonstrate jazz dance vocabulary and technique at a basic-moderate level

**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 2021, **Monday, December 13, 2021, from 11am-1pm.** The **Mid-Term** is scheduled during class on **Tuesday, October 12th,** **2021 during class. Only 2 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.

\****Understanding the conditions of the pandemic. If a student becomes sick and is required to quarantine, a specific plan for class participation must be worked out with the instructor in order for the student to balance properly healing and staying up to date in class.***

**Assignments:**

Dance Reflection Paper:

Students are required to observe one dance concert during the semester. A 2-page, double spaced, written paper is due on the day of the final, in which students are required to write their observation of the entire show, including any technical elements that they recognize from class being translated to the performance stage in reference to specific pieces. Students are also encouraged to engage all of their senses while observing the work (i.e. what was the mood of the piece?), how many dancers were in the piece?, were any sounds incorporated into the movement?, did it appear to travel in any particular way?, costuming?, multimedia?). Any conflicts should be brought to the instructor's attention at-least one month prior to the date of the concert. Dance reflection papers should be written in proper MLA format and a hardcopy should be submitted on the day of the final exam. Instructions on MLA formatting can be found at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

**You have the choice of attending any of The USC Glorya Kaufman BFA performances (some performance times are not confirmed at this time):**

* ***An updated list of BFA performances will be handed out and/or posted on the Kaufman School website for performance dates, times, and venues.***

***Reservations are recommended. Visit*** [***https://kaufman.usc.edu/***](https://kaufman.usc.edu/) ***to reserve your seat. Reservations go live a few weeks before performance date.***

**Mid-Term:**

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

**Tuesday, October 12th,** **2021 during class**

**Elective Experience Performance:**

Students are expected to share/perform material from class at this showcase. The performance date will: **TBA**

**Final Exam: Monday, December 13, 2021, from 11am-1pm.** Students are required to be in class for the final exam, so note the date.

**Proper Attire for Technique Class:**

Students are required to have Jazz shoes. Proper attire consists of form fitting work out 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 in and around the studio, and will affect grades as well.

**Grading Scale and Point Values:**

**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/Relection Paper 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 :**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Topics/Daily Activities** |
| **Week 1**  Aug 23  Aug 25 | | -Intro to the course, core skills, warm-up phrases, review of the syllabus. Review basic jazz steps and combinations |
| **Week 2**  Aug 30  Sep 1 | | -Progress to complex combinations across the floor. Review basic technical steps focusing on clarity |
| **Week 3**  Sep6- **NO Class-Labor Day**  Sep 8 | | -Continued building of dance vocabulary and technique.  -Start exploring with complex choreography |
| **Week 4**  Sep 13  Sep 15 | - ***Written Vocabulary sheet will be emailed out***.  -Expand on class choreography | |
| **Week 5**  Sep 20  Sep 22 | - Students will 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. | |
| **Week 6**  Sep 27  Sep 29 | -Continued work on Musicality and technique and choreography | |
| **Week 7**  Oct 4  Oct 6 | -Continued work on Musicality and technique  -Midterm review- review all class material | |
| **Week 8**  Oct 11  Oct 13-Midterm | -**MIDTERM EXAM (Wed. OCT 13th):** Based on memorized and rehearsed class material to date | |
| **Week 9**  Oct 18  Oct 20 | Students will continue to learn complex center technique and progression across the floor. Students will demonstrate a lengthy choreographed jazz dance combinations based on material covered in the course. | |
| **Week 10**  Oct 25  Oct 27 | - Continued advanced progressions | |
| **Week 11**  Nov 1  Nov 3 | -Improvisation Exploration | |
| **Week 12**  Nov 8  Nov 10- | -New choreography. Focus on performance | |
| **Week 13**  Nov 15  Nov 17 | -Quick Retention week **!** Show and perform quickly | |
| **Week 14**  Nov 22  **Nov 24-NO class-Thanksgiving Break** | -Continued Review of Class material and Choreography  ***-Start to Thanksgiving break*** | |
| **Week 15**  Nov 29  Dec 1- **Last Class** | Preparation for Final Exam & Elective Experience  **-Last Class!** | |
| **TBA---------** | **Elective Experience Performance** | |
| **FINAL EXAM:** | **\*\*\*\*\*FINAL\*\*\*\*\***  **Monday, December 13, 2019, 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***