



**DANC 480: Advanced Performance Studies: Senior Seminar**  
**Section: 22565**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Units: 1**

**Day:** Wednesday  
**Time:** 5:00pm – 6:20pm PT  
**Location:** KDC

**Instructor:** Professor Jodie Gates  
**Office:** Faculty suite or via Zoom  
**Office Hours:** Weds 2:30-4:30pm, or schedule by email  
**Contact Info:** Jodiegat@usc.edu

**Catalog Description**

Seminar and studio course in preparation of the senior project to be presented in spring semester. The senior project can include performance, choreography, scholarship or entrepreneurship.

**Course Description**

In this course the student extracts concepts from embodied practices and academic learning gained through their studies and training at USC. This seminar course is in preparation of the Senior Project Presentation which will be presented in the final month of Spring Semester 2022. In Senior Seminar, the student develops an appreciation for career advancement, creative process, scholarly research and varied approaches to leadership. The course clarifies and prioritizes career goals in order to assist with post-graduation employment and in support of the senior project. The course consists of three-modules, each module is five weeks in length. Weeks 1 - 5 the class focuses on Career Services and the completion of an individualized resume and biography. Weeks 6 - 10 include project proposals, resumes, and employment strategies including dancing, dance-making, research and leadership. Weeks 11 - 15 the class focuses on multidisciplinary research and development of the initial project proposal, completion of reels and final project document. The project is an opportunity to become aware of one's transferable skills, which could include performance, art-making, film, choreography,

scholarship, public policy, science, engineering, entrepreneurship and management, among other disciplines.

### **Learning Objectives**

The goal of the course is to develop a multidisciplinary research project and build a professional portfolio for future employment. The student will be expected to draw from learning experiences gained throughout their career at USC, and combine two other disciplines of study other than dance to refine and create the final research project proposal. By the end of the course, the acquired resources and in-class discussions will support an accomplished senior project proposal, and will offer the student a greater understanding of their future dance-related careers and employment strategies. The class will include working directly with the Career Services team, and collaborate as a cohort for in-class lectures and exercises to further refine project proposals.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Implementation of a viable project proposal

Development of professional materials including resume, biography and reels

Gain an understanding of career options and opportunities available post-graduation

Effective use of research tools and professional networks

**Prerequisite(s):** senior standing

Concurrent enrollment: none

Recommended Preparation: DANC 101, 120, 201, 220, 218, 301, 370

### **Required Materials**

No textbooks are required for the course. Readings and videos will be assigned. Students must complete assignments and complete readings and viewings as designated throughout the semester. Notebook required for in-class work, discussions, lectures and written take a-ways. Please, no phones used in class. Notebooks, laptops and iPads may be used when appropriate and directed by the professor.

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

\*See course modules on page 5

#### **Module #1: Weeks 1-5**

Career Services: completion of biography, resume, and images

#### **Module #2: Weeks 6-10**

Project Proposals and Employment Strategies including dancing, dance-making, research and leadership

#### **Module #3: Weeks 11-15**

Senior Project Proposal and completion of reel

**Please check your USC email at least once every 24-hours.**

### Grading Breakdown

- 250-word biography based on external research and the Kaufman alumni template.
- Resume completed utilizing the Kaufman template. Film, design, edit and complete performance/choreography reel.
- In-class 2-minute elevator pitch.
- One-page Outline of Project
- Three-page senior project proposal in preparation for Spring Semester.
- In-class discussions, assignments and exercises are required

Assignment	% of Grade
250-word Biography	15%
Kaufman Resume & Reel	20%
Two-Minute Oral Presentation Pitch	10%
Initial Outline of Project	15%
Final Senior Project Proposal	30%
Participation, discussions, in-class work	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

### Course-specific Policies (Assignment Submission, Grading Timeline and Technology)

#### Assignment Submission

Assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard and to [Jodiegat@usc.edu](mailto:Jodiegat@usc.edu) unless otherwise informed of assignment submissions directly to Career Services.

### **Assignment Rubrics**

All assignment rubrics will be posted on Blackboard under Assignments.

### **Grading Timeline**

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

### **Technology in the classroom**

Laptops, phones and ipads may be used for research, senior project, note-taking, images (career services), reels (career services), professional materials (resume, biography) and presentations only.

### **Grading Dispute Note**

I would like 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.

### **Attendance**

In order to participate fully in this lecture 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.

Physical and Mental Wellbeing is crucial to being a performing artist. We are committed at USC Kaufman to assisting our students exceed their potential. If you have a medical appointment (i.e physician, physical therapy, psychology/counseling, dietetics, etc.) we ask that you attempt to schedule your appointments around class schedules. If your appointment time can only be scheduled during class time, this is an excused absence. Please inform the course coordinator that you have a medical appointment *prior* to the class. You do not need to clarify the type of medical appointment you are attending if you choose.

### **Classroom norms [Expectations]**

Participation includes: being attentive and focused; actively participating in discussions, and group activities; asking thoughtful questions; coming to class fully prepared; and exercising personal responsibility and consideration of others at all times. Your attention during class time is greatly appreciated, and also required.

### **Course Schedule: Three Modules**

## Module #1: Weeks 1-5

Career Services: completion of biography, resume, and images

Assessment: Defined and well organized professional materials. Word count between 200-250 for biography, completed resume must follow Kaufman specific template.

- Week 1: Introduction to DANC 480. Career Services outline for fall semester (Elliott Scher). Review due dates and Senior Project timeline (Prof. Jackie Kopcsak). Begin biography content, examine one's personal style, career highlights, and review examples on the Kaufman alumni page <https://kaufman.usc.edu/all-alumni/>

Students, starting day #1 of Senior Seminar, please keep a notebook and an electronic document with career goals and aspirations post-graduation. This is a transformative time, an exciting time to explore your career interests and acknowledge your studies and training at USC.

- Week 2: Class discussion, review biography examples externally including large and small companies and organizations. Review the 2021 alumni page as reference <https://kaufman.usc.edu/all-alumni/?y=2021>: Create 250-word biography, in-class discussion and create content (biography due Week #3, Sept 8).
- Week 3: Jermaine Spivey class visit and discussion. Jermaine will share his career path, and how did he build his resume? Advice about dance companies, commercial work and the gig economy. Dancing in Europe, and how to navigate your own career.  
**250-WORD BIOGRAPHY DUE FOR REVIEW SEPT 8**
- Week 4: Create resume, in-class discussion about resumes and reviewing the Kaufman template.
- Week 5: Share resume options, in-class work and discussion. How does a resume reflect one's accomplishments concisely? Begin transferring professional materials to individual folders on your personal electronic device (in your personal folder, please include career goals, future employers, image options, biography, resume, video clips).

## Module #2: Weeks 6-10

Project Proposals. Employment Strategies including dancing, making, researching and leading.

Assessment: Complete a one-page project outline with concise and clear formatting.

Completion of a two-minute oral presentation, your project elevator pitch.

- Week 6: Initial Outline of Project  
**KAUFMAN RESUME DUE FOR REVIEW SEPT 29**

- Week 7: In-class 2-minute oral senior project presentation pitch.  
**VERBAL ASSIGNMENT DUE IN-CLASS OCT 6**
- Week 8: Guest lecture, Dane Martens. Production and how to work with a team.
- Week 9: Initial Outline of Project Check-in. Employment options.
- Week 10: Guest lecture Anna Glass, Executive Director of Dance Theatre of Harlem.  
**ONE-PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE DUE OCT 27**

### **Module #3: Weeks 11-15**

#### Senior Project Proposal

Assessment: Three-page proposal critically researched, clearly formatted and completed by Dec 1st. All professional materials completed and delivered including reels and images.

- Week 11: Guest lecture with Taryn Kaschock Russell, Director of the Harkness Dance Center.  
Assignment homework, to design and edit a 2-3 minute reel. Content includes headshot, body images, contact information, solo dancing and/or choreography and/or art making and narrative elements if desired.
- Week 12: Senior Project proposal, continued discussion and research. Finalize reels for portfolio. **REELS COMPLETED DUE NOV 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 13: Senior Project proposal, continued discussion and research.
- Week 14: Holiday
- Week 15: Celebrate the completion of professional materials and initial research and proposal for Senior Project Presentations.  
**FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL COMPLETED DUE DEC 1**

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings and Homework</b>	<b>Assignment Dates</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Aug 25	Course Introduction. *Career Services *Senior Project  In-class research and work on individual biography	Research preferred approaches for your 250-word biography.  Begin writing first draft	BIOGRAPHY DUE SEPT 8
<b>Week 2</b> Sep 1	Class discussion, and if comfortable share drafts with each other for feedback.  What makes for a strong biography? What “pops” and what can be edited.	Review biography examples externally, including large and small companies and organizations. Review the 2021 alumni page as reference <a href="https://kaufman.usc.edu/all-alumni/?y=2021">https://kaufman.usc.edu/all-alumni/?y=2021</a>	BIOGRAPHY DUE SEPT 8
<b>Week 3</b> Sep 8	In-class discussion with Jermaine Spivey.	Prepare for professional headshots Date TBD, and confirmed by Career Services. Coordinate three “looks” for your headshot. And enjoy yourself!	<b>BIOGRAPHY COMPLETED DUE SEPT 8</b>  Email <a href="mailto:Jodiegat@usc.edu">Jodiegat@usc.edu</a> and submit assignment via Blackboard
<b>Week 4</b> Sep 15	Create resume, in-class discussion regarding resume content and review the Kaufman template.	The Kaufman template is unique and specific. Please keep a folder of all of your work and accomplishments in order to create various templates, including a resume for agencies, commercial work and choreography, teaching or organizations/companies other than dance.	RESUME DUE SEPT 29

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings and Homework</b>	<b>Assignment Dates</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Sep 22	Discussion with Prof Jodie Gates. Resume and skills.  “Your new job is getting a job”. Align your network, reach out to mentors and establish a long list of employment opportunities and options.	Continue resume building and collect dance images and preferred headshots.	RESUME DUE SEPT 29
<b>Week 6</b> Sep 29	Initial Senior Project Proposal. In-class discussion.  One-page document outlining project. A concise document with working title, topic, explanation of interest, scholarly research or choreography, venue if applicable, budget, collaborators	Research project interests, viability, venues, collaborators and opportunities.	<b>RESUME COMPLETED DUE SEPT 29</b>  Email <a href="mailto:Jodiegat@usc.edu">Jodiegat@usc.edu</a> and submit assignment via Blackboard
<b>Week 7</b> Oct 6	In-class 2-minute oral senior project presentation pitch	“What is your preferred Ted Talk, and why”	ONE-PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE DUE OCT 27
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 13	Guest Lecture: Dane Martens  Producing dance events. Putting together a budget. Production advice. How to lead a team.	Research project needs.	ONE-PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE DUE OCT 27
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 20	Initial Outline of Project Check-in.  Employment strategies and options.	Solo filming and coaching for solo work: Career Services reel	ONE-PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE DUE OCT 27

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings and Homework</b>	<b>Assignment Dates</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Oct 27	Guest lecture with Anna Glass, Executive Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem	Solo filming and coaching for solo work: Career Services reel	<b>ONE-PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE COMPLETED DUE OCT 27</b>  Email <a href="mailto:Jodiegat@usc.edu">Jodiegat@usc.edu</a> and submit assignment via Blackboard
<b>Week 11</b> Nov 3	Guest lecture with Taryn Kaschock Russell, Director of the Harkness Dance Center	Design and edit 2-3 minute reels. Content includes headshot, body images, contact information, solo dancing and/or choreography and/or art making and narrative elements if desired	REELS DUE NOV 12
<b>Week 12</b> Nov 10	Senior Project Proposals and Career Services (finalizing reels)  In-class discussion	Complete reels and turn into Career Services	<b>REELS COMPLETED DUE NOV 12<sup>th</sup></b>  Deliver reels to Career Services, folder or link will be provided
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 17	Senior Project Proposals and Career Services  In-class discussion	Three-page project proposal research	FINAL THREE-PAGE PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE DEC 1
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 24	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> Dec 1	In-class discussion with Professor Jodie Gates	Celebrate the completion of professional materials and initial research and proposal for Senior Project Presentations	<b>FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL COMPLETED DUE DEC 1</b>  Email <a href="mailto:Jodiegat@usc.edu">Jodiegat@usc.edu</a> and submit assignment via Blackboard
			<b>NO FINAL FOR DANC 480</b>

### **Special Days Fall 2021**

Friday, August 27: School-wide Wellness Fair (no technique classes)

Monday, September 6: Labor Day (no classes)

Tuesday, September 7: Guest Artist Pablo Piantino for ballet class

Wednesday, September 8: School-wide Wellness Meeting with Dr. Greco (no 10:30am class)

Monday, September 13: Collab Lab replaces ballet class (faculty TBD)  
Tuesday, September 21: Kaufman Wellness Day (no technique classes)  
Monday, October 11: Collab Lab replaces ballet class (faculty TBD)  
Thursday & Friday, October 14-15: Fall Recess (no classes)  
Wednesday, October 27: Kaufman Wellness Day (no technique classes)  
Monday, November 8: Collab Lab replaces ballet class (faculty TBD)  
Weeks #14 & #15: Taper Schedule (only one technique class per day)  
November 24-28: Thanksgiving Recess  
Friday, December 3: Last Day of Instruction

### **KSOD Policies**

**Mental and Physical Health at Kaufman – see last pages of Syllabus for more information**

**Student Health:** phone number (213) 740-9355 (WELL). On call 24/7

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Dr. Greco: [Kelly.Greco@med.usc.edu](mailto:Kelly.Greco@med.usc.edu)

Marisa Hentis: [Hentis@usc.edu](mailto:Hentis@usc.edu)

### **Names and Pronouns**

If you want to be called by a different name or wish to be referred to by a different gender pronoun than the one under which you are officially enrolled, please let me know. Students are expected to respectfully refer to each other by their preferred names and pronouns in class. In our classroom and at USC, every student has the right to be respected and referred to by their name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity. Pronouns are words we use in place of names (e.g., he/she/they/ze), and for some people, they are an inherent piece of their identity. At any point through the course, please feel free to share with me if you would like me (and your classmates) to address you in a different way.

### **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.

### **Music Rights Agreements**

The University of Southern California maintains blanket licensing agreements for music with the following organizations: American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), Society of European Stage Authors and Composers (SESAC), and Global Music Rights (GMR). This gives the University, and its affiliate organizations, the ability to play music in specific situations ON THE CAMPUS without paying royalties to the artist. These situations include live performance, background and house music in performing arts spaces and hospitality venues, on the student radio station, and on the USC.edu domain. When choosing music for student choreography and performance, it is important to remember to stick within the repertory of these rights granting organizations or within the public domain (see below). Please be aware, that though USC does pay for these licensing, it ONLY covers live performance and the other criteria listed above when on the campus and usage by USC and its affiliates. This DOES NOT protect the student when posting their work on websites that monetize content, including social media and YouTube, or for use for self-promotion and public facing content. This is considered out of the bounds of the agreement and would require the student to enter into an agreement with the artist and their representation. In order to check if a piece of music you would like to use is within the grounds of the USC agreements, please refer to the online catalogs that the rights granting organizations provide:

ASCAP: <https://www.ascap.com/repertory>

BMI: <https://repertoire.bmi.com>

SESAC: <https://www.sesac.com/#!/repertory/search>

GMR: <https://globalmusicrights.com/search>

Additionally, should you have any questions or need help to determine if a piece of music falls within the bounds of these agreements, please feel free to reach out to the Kaufman Production Coordinator ([saccoman@usc.edu](mailto:saccoman@usc.edu)).

### **Public Domain**

In the United States, artists or their trusts/organizations hold copyrights on work created for the life of the author plus seventy years. Beyond this, the creator's repertoire is considered in the public domain and does not require licensure to use. For example, some bodies of work that fall within the public domain are: the choreography of Marius Petipa, the music of Camille Saint-Saens, and the operas of Giuseppe Verdi. Please be aware that though this does mean the work itself is in the public domain, it may not specifically mean that the performance and/or recording is as well. If there is a band/orchestra/performer listed, (this may not always be the case) please make sure that they and/or their repertoire are represented by one of the rights granting organizations listed above. Again, should you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to the Production Coordinator.

### **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).

### **USC Policies**

#### **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](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

#### **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](#). 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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/>.

### **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.” Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in [SCampus and university policies](#) on scientific misconduct.

#### **Support Systems:**

##### [Counseling and Mental Health](#)

phone number (213) 740-9355 (WELL)

On call 24/7

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

##### [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

Phone number 1 (800) 273-8255

On call 24/7

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

##### [Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#)

Phone Number (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours

On call 24/7

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

##### [USC Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX](#)

Phone number (213) 740-5086

Title IX Office (213) 821-8298

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

##### [Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#)

Phone number (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

#### [The Office of Disability Services and Programs](#)

Phone number (213) 740-0776

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

#### [USC Campus Support and Intervention](#)

Phone number (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

#### [Diversity at USC](#)

Phone number (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

#### [USC Emergency](#)

UPC phone number (213) 740-4321

HSC phone number (323) 442-1000

On call 24/7

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

#### [USC Department of Public Safety](#)

UPC phone number (213) 740-6000

HSC phone number (323) 442-120

On call 24/7

Non-emergency assistance or information.