

# USC Kaufman

## Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

### **DANC 181A: Contemporary Dance**

Section: **22395**

Units: 2

Term: **Spring 2023**

Day: Fridays

Time: **3:00pm-4:50pm**

Location: **KDC 106**

Instructor: **Professor S. Anindo Marshall**

Office - Email: **sarahanm@usc.edu**

Office Hours: **Appointment by email only**

Contact: Expected to reply within 48 hours

### Catalog Description

An introduction to Contemporary Dance techniques, basic body rhythms, and musicality, with an understanding of modern dance practices, shapes and lines. Contemporary dance blends multiple dance styles. Dancers will explore embodied practice through movements, self-expression and breath. Learn about the importance of contemporary dance as an art form through a brief exploration of its history and techniques influences.

### Course Description

This course is a beginning level Contemporary dance technique class with an emphasis on body alignment/placement, an introduction to kinesiological awareness, movement in space, modern dance terminology and introduction to historical forms of modern dance in the United States. The course focuses on foundational technique, creative experiences, conditioning and stretching exercises to improve and enhance each dancer's strength, limberness and flexibility. Historical studies on topics surrounding modern dance pioneers, codified styles, cultural influences, and current trends are included. Contemporary Dance, is a dance discipline that blends different dance styles - Dunham, Horton, Jazz, Cultural Context, Ballet, developing dynamic travelling sequences, shapes, lines, exploring body movement through improvisation, embodied movement and work on contemporary choreography.

### Learning Objectives

This technique class is a non-majors course. It provides the foundation for learning the basics of Contemporary Dance movement vocabulary and historical contexts. This course aims to:

- Develop dance vocabulary (terminology and movement).
- Promote knowledge and awareness of safe performance techniques.
- Promote an introductory understanding of the theories, contexts and history of modern dance practices.
- Develop awareness of musicality
- Understand the importance of community in contemporary dance practices.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, the student can demonstrate knowledge of placement, alignment and anatomy when doing modern/contemporary dance warm-up and locomotor phrases. As assessed by:

- a) Progress of student in class
- b) b) Written tests and assignments.

Upon completion of this course, the student can demonstrate knowledge of terminology and techniques used to complete modern/contemporary dance phrases that use rhythm, changes in levels and direction, turns, swings, and various position of the spine limbs. As assessed by the progress of student in class as well as written vocabulary tests and discussions.

Students can demonstrate knowledge of terminology, alignment and placement. Individual expression used to complete modern/contemporary dance phrases that use rhythm, changes in levels and direction, turns, swings, and various position of the spine limbs.

### **Description of Assessments and Course Participation**

#### **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 permitted 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)

**Attendance:**

Attendance and full participation in class exercises, as well as completion of all journal entry assignments and the dance reflection paper, are paramount for a passing grade. Students will be expected to practice outside of class in order to progress at an appropriate pace.

The class also has a required final exam. Attendance at the final exam is crucial to receiving a passing grade in the course. The exam will be given on the date as published in the USC schedule of classes for Spring semester 2023.

Only 3 permitted absences per semester. If you miss more than the 4 excused absences, the final grade will be lowered by 1/3 of the grade for each additional 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. Three tardy or more are equal to one absence. Attendance, participation and journal entries are paramount to passing the course.

**Journal:**

Students are required to keep a journal. The journal should be three pages in length (one for each week), double-spaced and submitted every three weeks via email to the instructor of record. The journal entries should highlight progress as well as strengths and weaknesses. Students should also be able to recap the main points of each week's lesson (from the previous journal up to that point), using vocabulary/vernacular from the Contemporary genre to explain exercises. Students can use their class notes as reference toward journal entries. At times, students may also be asked to view videos online via the Blackboard portal. The video viewing will be based on class discussions and directed learning. Correct spelling of terms, as directed in class, is paramount. The journal is due every 3 weeks via email and should reflect all classes from the prior 3 weeks. The journals are worth 4 points each, one point for being turned in on time and one point for each well-written page. Journals should be written in proper MLA format. Instructions on MLA formatting can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

All journal entries are due at 5pm on the following dates:

Journal Number	Due Date
1 (WEEK 4)	02/02/2023
2 (WEEK 8)	03/02/2023
3 (WEEK 12)	03/30/2023

Late work

Each day of late submission will take three points off those allotted for each assignment.

**Assignment Submission**

Methods of submission - email:sarahanm@usc.edu

### **Dance Reflection Paper:**

Students are required to observe one dance concert during the semester (preferably dance forms stemming from the African tradition: Afro Cuban, Jazz, Hip Hop). 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 are due on the day of the final exam (. Instructions on MLA formatting can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

A list of appropriate performances for the dance reflection paper will be provided by the course instructor.

### **Proper Attire for Technique Class:**

Students are required to dance barefoot. Ladies - Leotards and tights or leggings, dance pants, capris, slim fitting pants that you can move in. Gentlemen - Sweatpants, shorts, t-shirt - easy to move with. Hair should be worn off the face. These items can be purchased online, at neighborhood dance wear supply stores or at athletic apparel stores. 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.

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
In-class participation	15 pts	15%
Dance Performance Journal	30 pts	30%
Dance Reflection Paper	25 pts	25%
Final Exam	30 pts	30%
TOTAL	100pts	100%

### **Grading Scale**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale.

Note: there is no A+ available at USC

A 95-100

A- 90-94

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79  
C 73-76  
C- 70-72  
D+ 67-69  
D 63-66  
D- 60-62  
F 59 and below

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Introduction to the dance studio, classroom etiquette, and dance attire. Introduction to class warm-up and simple movement. Overview of course syllabus and schedule. Introduction to breathing exercises, beginning Dunham Barre.

### **Week 2 -5**

Continue building on the Dunham Barre,  
- Isolations,  
- Travelling isolations and progressions.  
- Introduce Dunham Technique Cultural Context study:  
- Work on turns, swings, and various position of the spine limbs.  
- Start developing a Contemporary Rep.

### **Week 6 - 9**

- Continue to expand on dance techniques.  
- Moving into internal connections,  
- Explore Chakras integration in embodied movement practice.  
- How to apply it to movement... as introduced to the technique by Ms. Dunham, in the late 1998.  
- Continue working on Contemporary Rep, adding on embodied cultural text movements.

### **Week 10 - 14**

- Dunham barre moves to center floor progressions.  
- to repertory works applying Dunham Theories and Methodologies.  
- Continue working on Contemporary Rep.

### **Week 15**

Review and study, preparation for finals.

### **FINAL EXAM. Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> 11am - 1pm**

The final exam will be an in-class presentation of all elements learned weeks 9-14. Final exam will include movement assessment, include a short history/vocabulary written portion. Dance reflection paper due on the day of final exam. .

**KSOD Policies Required in Syllabus**

Mental and Physical Health at Kaufman – see last pages of Syllabus for more information  
Physical and Mental well being 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.

#### Student Health & Wellness Appointments

Free and confidential mental health treatments are available for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. Students can make an appointment with Dr. Kelly Greco through [MySHR](#) (select Kaufman under location). Appointments are available on site in KDC on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 5:00 pm or via Zoom throughout the week. Students can also contact Dr. Greco by phone or email. Visit the [student health website](#) for more resources.

Dr. Kelly Greco: Counseling and Mental Health Services

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

Student Health Main: (213) 740-9355 (WELL) on call 24/7

Direct: 213-740-9788

Free physical therapy consultations are available for students. Students can make individual appointments for physical therapy with Dr. Marisa Hentis through [MySHR](#) or walk-in to the fitness zone and training room on the mezzanine level of KDC.

Dr. Marisa Hentis: Physical Therapy

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

#### Names and Pronouns

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. I will not tolerate misgendering and disrespect of people's names and pronouns in our classroom.

#### 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

Optional policy about calling people IN to the conversation about racial justice, as opposed to calling people out. 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.

#### 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 Required in Syllabus

### 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 can review the technology resources from the [Student Basic Needs Resource Guide](#). The guide includes links to the USC ITS loaner laptop program, USC Computing Centers, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and the Affordable Connectivity Program.

### 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 session will be Fridays, from 12:00PM-1:50PM 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. Should students be unable to attend synchronous sessions they are expected to watch the recorded Zoom session and any related PowerPoint presentations (both will be posted to Blackboard once done live) and complete the assignments for each week.

#### 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 Fall 2022 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. Please contact your professor directly for additional accommodations.

#### Netiquette and 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 is considered highly disrespectful.

#### 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.

### Methods & Procedures

In teaching, the instructor will utilize:

- Physical demonstrations by the teacher
- Improvisations & explorations individually, and/or in partners and in groups
- Light-touch hands-on corrections by the instructor
- Supporting different learning styles—visual, auditory, tactile/kinetic

- Acknowledging “multiple intelligences”—visual/spatial, verbal/linguistic, logical/mathematical, bodily/kinesthetic, musical/rhythmic, interpersonal/intrapersonal.

## 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](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

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

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

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

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086

[eeotix.usc.edu](http://eeotix.usc.edu)

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

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

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

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776

[osas.usc.edu](https://osas.usc.edu)

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

[campussupport.usc.edu](https://campussupport.usc.edu)

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

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: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](https://emergency.usc.edu)

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: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

[ombuds.usc.edu](https://ombuds.usc.edu)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)

[chan.usc.edu/otfp](https://chan.usc.edu/otfp)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

**FINAL NOTE: It is often necessary for the instructor to place his/her hands on a student in order to better facilitate the learning process and to illustrate proper alignment. If a student should have an aversion to this practice please notify the professor prior to the start of classes.**