



DANC 189A: Beginning Tap Dance

Section: 22429R

Fall 2023

2 units

Day: TUES/THURS

Time: 3:30pm-4:50pm

Location: KDC 106

Instructor: Josette Wiggan

Office: Faculty Lounge

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

Contact Info: jwiggan@usc.edu

Catalog Description

An introduction to basic Tap Dance technique, rhythms, syncopation, and musicality, developing into complex steps and elementary dances with progressive understanding of weight change, improvisation, and combinations of sound.

Course Description

As an embodied studio [in-person course](#), this beginning level course introduces students to basic steps, rhythms, vocabulary, musicality and movement skills as well as the basic historical and cultural background of tap dance.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Attain proper tap dance technique within warm-ups and combinations.
- Develop improved strength, flexibility, and rhythmic understanding.
- Demonstrate basic combinations utilizing beginning tap dance vocabulary.
- Illustrate understanding of rhythmic weight changes and beginning musical skills.
- Learn the basic fundamental elements of improvisation.
- Examine basic historical and cultural contexts of tap dance.

Description of Participation and Expectations:

In-class Participation:

- Turn off all electronic devices that may make noise.
- Listen and pay attention during class.
- Engage in class discussions/demonstrations.
- Report any injuries that prohibit class participation to the instructor.
- **If you are unable to participate in class due to injury, please take detailed notes on the material covered. Notes taken should be emailed to the instructor at the end of class.**
- If you must leave class early, please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class.

Full, consistent participation in class exercises is imperative. Students are also expected to devote practice time outside of class in order to progress at an appropriate pace. The class also has a required mid-term and final exam that students must complete in person. 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 2023, **Tuesday, December 12, 2023 2pm-4pm**. The **Mid-term** is scheduled during class on **Thursday, October 12, 2023 during class**. ½ of a point will be deducted for every unexcused tardy. The student will not be able to participate in class if 15 or more minutes late. Please email the instructor to notify of your absence at least one day in advance. If illnesses or family emergencies occur, that result in excessive absences, please communicate with the instructor and student advisors at your earliest convenience.

Assignments:

Writing Prompts:

There will be 3-4 writing prompts assigned throughout the semester that correspond with the material being covered that week.

Mid-term:

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

- **Thursday, Oct 12, 2023 during class.**

Elective Experience Performance:

Students will have an opportunity to share/perform material from class at the Elective Experience showcase scheduled to take place at the end of the semester.

- **Friday, November 17, 2023 at 5:30pm, 7:00pm and 8:30pm**

Final Exam:

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

Students will write a short essay on semester tap dance history/concepts learned as well as explaining Tap terminologies learned. In addition, students will be given a physical exam covering tap steps and exercises learned throughout the semester.

- **Tuesday December 12, 2023 2pm-4pm.**

Proper Attire for Tap Class:

Students are required to have tap shoes. Jazz pants, easy fitting pants and/or shorts and form-fitting workout clothes are acceptable. 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.

Grading Breakdown

Grades are based on an average of the assessments given by the instructor, plus subjective in-class qualities like *effort, progress, attitude, and engagement*. Dance etiquette should be observed while in class, and will affect grades as well.

Grading Scale and Point Values:

50% Participation (discussions, movement, overall **in-class** engagement)

20% Mid-semester physical Exam

30% Final Exam (Written 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
<u>Week 1</u> Aug 22 Aug 24	-Review of the syllabus, overview of course objectives and class expectations, introduce tap terminology and basic tap concepts. -What is Tap Dance? What is your understanding of the art form?
<u>Week 2</u> Aug 29 Aug 31	-Footage -Students will learn warm up exercises to aid in proper articulation of the foot in order to build strength and increase clarity of sound.
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 5 Sep 7	-Students will begin to explore more syncopated rhythms, intro to weight shifts. (Paddles, Cramp Rolls)
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 12 Sep 14	-Footage -Breakdown of time steps as well as explore beginning concepts of Improvisation.
<u>Week 5</u> Sep 19 Sep 21	-Refinement of core skills, building upon phrase materials while turning them into choreography. -What is the goal while improvising and how does improvisation enhance the art form?
<u>Week 6</u> Sep 26 Sep 28	-Footage -Expand and refine all choreography as well as continue practice with improvisational tools/techniques.
<u>Week 7</u> Oct 3 Oct 5	-Traveling Concepts: Explore steps that will allow us to travel through space more easily. Discover dynamic ways to enter and exit the stage while dancing. -Riff walks, traveling time steps, falaps...
<u>Week 8</u> Oct 10 Oct 12-Midterm	-Midterm review- review all class related material both historical and movement based. MIDTERM EXAM (Oct 12): Based on historical and rehearsed class material, as well as learned tap vocabulary to date.
<u>Week 9</u> Oct 17 Oct 19	-Footage Review -Who are some of the Tap Legends discussed in class and why was their contribution to the art form significant?
<u>Week 10</u> Oct 24 Oct 26	-All things Backwards: Flash and Air steps -Pullbacks, triplets, wings.
<u>Week 11</u> Oct 31 Nov 2	-Improvisation exercises that train the ear -Start preparation for Elective Experience Showcase

Week 12 Nov 7 Nov 9	-Footage -Continue on with choreography
Week 13 Nov 14 Nov 16 Nov 17- Elective Experience	-Finish Choreography and Continue Review of course material -Blocking for Elective Experience Performance Elective Experience is on Friday Nov 17th
Week 14 Nov 21 Nov 23- No Class	-Footage -Implement skills learned throughout the course to date during improvisation Thanksgiving Break Nov 21-26
Week 15 Nov 28 Nov 30-Last Day of Class	Review and Preparation for Final Exam -How does community shape the world that we live in today? How was Tap dance influenced by communal exchanges, gatherings and coming together?
Week 16 Dec 5-No Class Dec 7-No Class	Preparation for Final (No class)
FINAL EXAM:	*****FINAL***** Tuesday, December 12th, 2-4pm (KDC107)

****This syllabus and course calendar can be amended at any time by the instructor, based on the instructor's discretion***

KSOD Policies Required in Syllabus

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.

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.

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).

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 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. For this course, the weekly synchronous ZOOM session will be Mondays, from 10:00AM-11:40AM 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 2020 semester, USC policy required that all classes conducted online be recorded for asynchronous viewing with transcriptions made available. Only classes that are ordered to be remote by the University will be recorded this semester.

"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.

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/sssa

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
