



DANC 184a -JAZZ Dance  
Section 22407

SPRING 2024

2 units

Day: Monday/Wednesday

Time: 9:00am-10:20am

Location: KDC 107

Instructor: Shannon J Grayson

Office: K222

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

Email Hours: M-TH 10am-5pm.

*\*In person office hours and zoom meetings available  
M-TH on case by case basis.*

*Email response time-0-48hrs*

Contact Info: [sjgrayso@usc.edu](mailto:sjgrayso@usc.edu)

### **Course Description**

The Jazz dance course is designed to teach the student basic movement technique and vocabulary of Jazz dance. Students will progress through the process of learning and executing warm up exercises, across the floor combinations, choreography and written assignments. Students will also be guided to explore the importance of self-expression, individuality, presenting their unique personality in movement, and communicating the context of the dance.

### **Course Notes**

The purpose of this course is to offer the student a greater understanding of Jazz dance and its integrity as an art form. Students will gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, and musicality. Students will also be introduced to the historical context of Jazz dance, which include its development from cultural social dances, music, and great influence from African American traditions and Ballet technique. Jazz dance is an important dance form for dancers to learn. It is used in theatre, commercial work, and incorporates the basics of ballet and modern dance.

## Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Develop a greater understanding of Jazz Dance and its integrity as an art form
- Gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, articulation, alignment and musicality.
- Develop an understanding of the importance and impact of the historical content of cultural social dances and music on Jazz dance movement
- Demonstrate basic combinations utilizing basic jazz dance vocabulary and technique.
- Demonstrate understanding of choreography, improvisation, and performance

## Participation

Active participation in all exercises, discussion, and studio course work is necessary for the student to be successful in the class. Students are required to be prompt and prepared for class instruction.

## 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.**
- ***If a student does not have jazz shoes after the 6<sup>th</sup> week of classes -0.2 points will be deducted from their final grade -each class shoes are not worn***

## Website's to purchase Jazz shoes:

- [https://www.discountdance.com/search/jazz+shoes?gclid=Cj0KCQjwgO2XBhCaARIsANrW2X0g-AC1QJgXIsHUIANma5FJVGC5xGmHTI-5MiEzuj9YxCHMpqh9HXgaAg\\_EALw\\_wcB](https://www.discountdance.com/search/jazz+shoes?gclid=Cj0KCQjwgO2XBhCaARIsANrW2X0g-AC1QJgXIsHUIANma5FJVGC5xGmHTI-5MiEzuj9YxCHMpqh9HXgaAg_EALw_wcB)
- **Amazon-** Type in Jazz shoes in the search box and a nice selection will be shown

## Required Text

There is no required text for this course. A vocabulary list will be posted on Blackboard. This list will help students learn terminology and prepare everyone for the Written Final Exam.

## **Description and Assessments of Assignments:**

### **Embodied Practice/Practice Policy: (50% of grade)**

In order to participate fully in this course, students are expected to be in class, on time and present. This is paramount for a passing grade. Students will be evaluated on active attendance and participation. This includes class preparation, weekly progress, work ethic, and consistent engagement throughout class. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor (in advance to the extent possible) if a class is missed and other arrangements will be made.

- If a student is **15 min late to class, you must sit out and take notes**. This is for your physical safety to prevent injury from not warming up properly. This is also to respect and follow the proper etiquette of a professional dance class. Observation notes must be turned in to the professor. After 2 tardies, each tardy is **0.2 point deduction from Final grade**. Active attendance and participation are paramount to passing the course.
- Every student is allowed **2 excused absences** (no email required). If a student misses more than the 2 excused absences, the final grade will be **lowered by 2 points**, (one point for attendance and one point for participation) for each additional absence. Please email the professor the day of class before class ends at 10:20a (if mentally and physically able) to notify of your absence-that email can serve as an excused absence under the circumstances of illness and/or emergency.

### **NOTE TO STUDENTS WITH ABSENCES (due to injury, illness, emergency) :**

- This is a physical class therefore participation is critical to pass. If injured, students are expected to observe class and take notes, or follow modified protocols per their doctor's orders. Understanding that illness may limit participation, notes and videos to help students may be taken by students in class to stay caught up on choreography/ technique. It is your responsibility to study and learn the material posted. Your performance/movement execution will be evaluated (graded) on the overall class standards, guidelines, and technical expectations. ***If an injury, illness, or family emergency occurs which results in excessive absences, please communicate with the instructor at your earliest convenience. A specific plan for class participation must be worked out with the professor for the student to balance properly healing and staying up to date in class.***

### **Class Conduct**

Phones will not be allowed and should not be visible during class. Texting or internet engagement during class time will result in lowering of your class grade 0.2pts. Your attention during class time is greatly appreciated, and also required. 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.

### **Elective Experience Performance:**

- Students may have an opportunity to share/perform material from class at this evening showcase. Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. Performance date/times: TBA

**Mid-Term and Final Exam : ( 50% total of Grade)**

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

- **Mid-Term (20%): Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024- Physical Exam during class.**
- **FINAL EXAM (30%): Dates and Portions below**
  - ***Physical Portion (20%)-***
    - **(Wednesday-April 24th- Last Day of class)**
    - Demonstration of jazz warm up, across the floor and final combination/choreograph
  - ***Written Portion (10%)-***
    - **University Final date (Friday- May 3rd<sup>h</sup> 8am-10am)**
    - Online exam on Dance vocabulary /terms and positions
      - **No in person attendance) (10%)**

**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.

<b>Assessment Tool</b>	<b>Description/Points</b>	<b>%of Grade</b>
<b>Embodied Practice</b>	Teacher will observe and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class preparation and weekly progression.</li> <li>• Active Participation in class</li> <li>• Work Ethic and Engagement</li> <li>• Completion of physical exercises</li> <li>• Etiquette and Performance</li> </ul> <b>100pts</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	<b>100pts</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100pts</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

A+ = 100 points

B+ = 88-90 points

C+ = 78-80 points

D+ = 67-70 points

A = 95-99 points  
 A- = 91-95 points  
 F = 60 or below

B = 85-87 points  
 B- = 81-84 points

C = 75-77 points  
 C- = 71-74 points

D = 64-66 points  
 D- = 61-63 points

**COURSE SCHEDULE: SCHEDULE/COURSE CONTENT (Subject to Change) : Topics/Daily Activities**

<b><u>Week 1</u></b>	-Intro to the course, syllabus. Dancing!- Warm-up phrases, review of the syllabus and intro to basic Jazz steps
<b><u>Week 2</u></b>	-Continued introduction to fundamentals of jazz movement Students will also be introduced to choreography and practice movement retention.  * No class Monday 1/15-MLK Day
<b><u>Week 3</u></b>	-Continued Learning of basic steps and vocabulary. Start exploring with choreography
<b><u>Week 4</u></b>	<i>Written Vocabulary sheet will be posted on Blackboard/Emailed</i> -Expand on class choreography
<b><u>Week 5</u></b>	- students will begin to be able to independently execute warm up and receive feedback. Musicality focus
<b><u>Week 6</u></b>	-Continued work on Musicality and technique
<b><u>Week 7</u></b>	-Continued work on Musicality and technique  -Midterm review- review all class material  *No class Monday 2/19-Presidents Day
<b><u>Week 8</u></b>	<b>Mid-Term (20%): WED. FEB 28TH- Physical Exam during class.</b>
<b><u>Week 9</u></b>	Students will continue to learn more complex center technique and progression across the floor. Students will demonstrate short, choreographed combinations based on material covered
<b><u>Week 10</u></b>	-SPRING BREAK!!!!!!! March 10-17th
<b><u>Week 11</u></b>	-Review class material  -Improvisation Exploration
<b><u>Week 12</u></b>	-Advanced choreography. Focus on performance

<b>Week 13</b>	-Demonstration of choreographed combination based
<b>Week 14</b>	Review for Finals
<b>Week 15</b> Physical Exam	Preparation for Final Exam & Elective Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last Class- <i>Physical Final</i> (Thursday- April 27th<sup>st</sup>)</li> </ul> <p>***FINAL EXAM***</p> <p>Online Written Portion (10%)- (Tuesday- May 9th<sup>th</sup> 8am-10am)</p>

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

#### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- At the end of the semester each student should be able to demonstrate an intermediate/advanced level proficiency in isolating the body parts including: the head, hips, torso, shoulders and legs.
- At the end of the of the semester each student should be able to demonstrate an intermediate/ advanced level proficiency of basic level Jazz steps including: placement of the parallel position, the use of Jazz port de bras, locomotion whilst maintaining the use of the demi-plié, syncopated rhythms, a single pirouette en dehors en plié and relevé, basic ideas of weight change (pas de bourrées, pas de bourrées en tournant, ball changes, pivot turns, battements and jetés).
- At the end of the semester each student should be able to demonstrate a basic level proficiency in improvisation and understanding syncopation and musicality.

#### **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 scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

### **Academic Integrity**

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas.

Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university’s mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the student hand book or the Office of Academic Integrity’s website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

## **Use of AI Generators**

AI is not permitted. Since creating, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all assignments should be prepared by the student working individually or in groups. Students may not have another person or entity complete any substantive portion of the assignment. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, using AI-generated tools is prohibited in this course, will be identified as plagiarism, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

## **Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies**

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment. Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

## **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.

### **Mental Health**

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.

### **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).

### **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 Holidays 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.

### **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 [atosas.usc.edu](http://atosas.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 Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline-988 for both calls and text messages-24/7 on call The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices

The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)-(213) 740-9355(WELL)-24/7 on call Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-and power-based harm(including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX)-(213) 740-5086 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 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 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) 740-0411 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 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 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) 442-1200–24/7 on call Non-emergency assistance or information. Office of the Ombuds-(213) 821-9556(UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)) 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) 442-2850

[orotfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:orotfp@med.usc.edu) Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.