



## DANC 185a: Hip Hop Dance

Section 22414

Spring 2024

2 units<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Day: THURSDAY

Time: 3:00pm-4:50pm

Location: KDC 106

Instructor: Shannon J. Grayson<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Office: KDC 222

Office Hours: To be scheduled by email

M-TH 10am-5pm.

*\*In person office hours and zoom meetings available M-TH on case by case basis. Email response time-0-48hr*

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

### Catalog Description

An introduction to elements of Hip Hop Dance, including technique, movement, musical rhythm, tempo, and phrasing, as well as the historical context required to develop skills needed to practice and perform this popular dance form.

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to offer the student a greater understanding of Hip Hop 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 Hip Hop, which includes the development of its culture and music along with the dance. Hip Hop is an important contemporary dance form for dancers to learn. It is a social and theatrical dance form that addresses feelings, tells stories, and responds to current events.

### Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

Learn basic movement technique through the medium of Hip Hop dance and music as an American vernacular social dance

Gain a physical and cognitive understanding about body coordination, rhythm, and musicality

Compose Hip Hop choreography through class explorations of the rhythmic and lyrical content in Hip Hop music. Students will create 'Crews'.

Explore the importance of self-expression, individuality, presenting their unique personality in movement, and communicating the context of the dance through improvisation "Freestyle" and

Learn the historical context of Hip Hop, which includes the development of its culture and music along with the dance.

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials (*Subject to change*)

- Documents, articles, and video footage will be provided by professor and/or sent through Blackboard ( All material will be discussed in detail in class)
  - Elements of Hip Hop Document, Planet B-Boy Movie, Rize

## 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 a **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 miss 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.

### 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.***

## Assignments:

### Mid-Term and Final Exam : ( 50% of Grade- breakdown below)

- (20 % of Grade) -**Mid-Term: Thursday- FEB 29th-physical exam during class.**
  - **Physical Portion (15%)**- demonstration of warm up, across the floor and final combination/choreography and cypher
  - **Written Portion (5%)**—**Written exam on Blackboard** on Elements of Hip Hop Document  
-Will be given at end of class-Bring Laptop
  
- (30% of Grade)-**FINAL EXAMS:**
  - **Physical Portion (20%)**- **Date of Last Physical Class- Thursday-APRIL 25th)**  
demonstration of warm up, across the floor and final combination/choreography
  
  - **Written Portion (10%)**- **Thursday- May 7th-2p-4p** (paper due by 4pm)
    - *Cultural Event & Reflection Paper – Students will write a reflection paper on their experience attending and/or participating in a Hip Hop dance concert or social function. The paper must be a 2-page, double spaced, written in proper MLA format and a hardcopy should be submitted on Blackboard the day of the final exam.. \ This paper should address how the work seen relates to specific elements of Hip Hop and content covered in class.*

\*\*\*Because this is physical class, our last class of the semester, and this exam date has been announced in every class since the beginning the semester-there are **NO** make up exam options. Alternate performance assignments will be given only in case of an emergency or unavoidable problem such as illness or hospitalization. The student must communicate with the professor before the exam about the problem to address the option of the assigned alternate assignment.

**Performance Opportunity: Elective Experience Performance:** Students may have an opportunity to share/perform material from class at this evening showcase on **-TBA**. The performance will be in the KDC Performance Studio. Participation is highly encouraged but not mandatory. Class time will sometimes be used for rehearsal towards the end of the semester.

## 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 in class and will affect grades as well.

Assessment Tool	Description/Points	%of Grade
<b>Embodied Practice</b>	Teacher will observe and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class preparation and weekly progression-On Time</li><li>• Active Participation</li><li>• Work Ethic and Engagement</li><li>• Completion of physical exercises</li></ul> <b>100pts</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Mid-Term Exams</b>	<b>100pts</b> (Physical and Written)	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exams</b>	<b>100pts</b> (Physical and Written)	<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      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

**Proper Attire for Technique Class:**

Proper attire consists of comfortable work out attire: t-shirts, tank tops, gym sneakers/tennis shoes, sweatpants, gym shorts (no jeans allowed, and shoes are mandatory). **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.** While observing class you must write out your observations and turn it into the instructor at the end of class. This will serve as a ½ absence. If you are late and observe class, but do not turn in written observations at the end of class, you will receive a full absence.

**Additional Policies:**

In-class Participation:

Turn off or silence cell phones. Listen and remain attentive during class.

Engage in in-class discussions regarding movement practice and historical context.

Any injuries that prohibit class participation must be reported to the instructor.

Remain respectful and attentive while others are speaking/demonstrating in class .

No gum, food, or drinks will be allowed in the studio.

If you 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

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

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/Due Dates
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Intro Class:		Warm up/Across the floor/Grooves
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Review of Basic Fundamentals/ Social activities		
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Intro to Bounce: (East coast/west coast)	YouTube Viewing #1	
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Culture Development Intro to social and Vernacular Dances	Written Handouts Distributed: Elements of Hip HOP	
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Intro to Social and Vernacular Dances CYPHER		FREESTYLE Review!!!!
<b>WEEK 6</b>	SOUL Train Focus	YouTube Viewing #2	
<b>WEEK 7</b>	Locking Intro and Review for Midterm	YouTube Viewing #3	

<b>WEEK 8</b>	Midterm		<b>Midterm Physical and Written Due:</b> <b>Thursday-APRIL 25th</b>
<b>WEEK 9</b>	Party Dances!!!!	YouTube Viewing #4	Dance Party!!! Dress and Crew sharing
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>	<u>NO CLASS!</u>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	Party Dances Day 2!!!	YouTube Viewing #5	
<b>WEEK 12</b>	Golden Era of Hip Hop	YouTube Viewing #6	
<b>WEEK 13</b>	Early 2000's	YouTube Viewing #7	
<b>WEEK 14</b>	House and Breaking Review for Final:	YouTube Viewing #8 • Guest Artist	REVIEW CREW DANCES AND CHOREOGRAPHY
<b>WEEK 15</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM:</b>	<b>Physical Final-Last Day of Class:</b> <b>Thursday-APRIL 25th</b>	<b>WRITTEN FINAL</b> <b>Thursday- May 7th-2p-4p</b>

## ***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 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.

## **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](https://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.