

# USC Kaufman

## Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

### **DANC 110 Dance Technique I Section 22360D**

**Fall 2024**

**3 units**

**Day: M/W**

**Time: 10:30-11:50 a.m.**

**Location: KDC 105**

**Instructors: Professor of Record**

**Office: KDC**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Contact Info:**

#### **Catalog Description**

Foundational technique studies in a studio setting. Concentration on hip hop and its derivatives, classical ballet, partnering and contemporary techniques essential to the dancers' development.

#### **Course Description**

#### **Corbin - DANC 110 Modern Dance Technique M/W 10:30-11:50 - The Taylor Style**

Paul Taylor is recognized as (arguably) one of the greatest American modern dance choreographers in the white hegemonic lens of dance history. Taylor developed a distinct choreographic and movement style but not a “technique.” Since Taylor is a style and not a technique, we build a Taylor class using aspects of repertory pieces to train our bodies and minds. To become literate or conversant in the Taylor style the dancer must draw on many different dance experiences or forms. In my opinion, Paul Taylor was one of the first “contemporary” choreographers because his style is a hybrid. Graham and Cunningham based modern, Classical Ballet, Jazz, gesture or “found movement”, and idiomatic dance forms comprise Taylor’s style. A strong foundation in any of these forms is a wonderful access point but to become truly fluent one needs a strong body, a nimble, open mind and the capacity to share one’s lived experience. Your stories and lives are not only welcome, they are also an

integral part of the Taylor process. My Taylor class uses Taylor's choreography to build strength, endurance, speed, spatial awareness, and mental agility. We will experience space at the MACRO level. We will break down ideas of musical phrasing. We will walk, run, hinge, bird, jump, fall, slide, fly, bound, tilt, and scribble our way through this semester. See you in Taylorland.

### **Learning Objectives**

This technique class is fundamental to the Dance BFA and is intended for the foundational level BFA Dance major. It provides the foundation for all other studies and experiences in the major and focuses on the creation and long-term refinement of dance technique. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Employ the foundational elements of dance technique in a variety of forms.
- Demonstrate awareness of musicality, dynamics and phrasing.
- Participate in dialogue concerning theories, contexts and history of the forms studied.
- Sequence complex phrase work, and verbally and physically apply concepts to those phrases.
- Identify and synthesize commonalities and contrasting qualities in diverse dance forms to enhance personal artistry and technical proficiency.

### **Prerequisite(s):**

### **Required Materials**

Materials: course readings and videos can be found on Brightspace page – please check your email every 24 hours.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIRED**

Students will need an electronic device with access to Zoom, Blackboard and TeamUp for this course. They are asked to familiarize themselves with these three interfaces. Please see the links below for technology support.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Clear, daily open communication is necessary to running an efficient organization. To facilitate communication:

1. Please check your USC email at least once every 24-hours.
2. Please check Teamup throughout the day as schedules are subject to change.
3. When corresponding with faculty, please use the following formats:
  - a. Absences
  - b. Grading disputes
  - c. Professional leave

Instructor

Professor of Record

Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

**ASSESSMENTS and WORK SCHEDULE**

**Week 4 Assessment (30%)**  
**Week 8 Assessment (30%)**  
**Week 12 Assessment (30%)**  
**Final Cypher (10%)**

**Weeks 1-4 (Aureole Assessment Wednesday 9/18)**

**Aureole 1962 – Lyricism / Weight / Shape / Speed / Simplicity**

**Aureole Adagio (50 pts) – Wednesday 9/18/2024**

**Sequencing (10pts)**  
**Spinal Articulation (10pts)**  
**Weight (10pts)**  
**Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)**  
**Details (10pts)**

**Aureole Big Combo (50 pts) – Wednesday 9/18/2024**

**Sequencing (10pts)**  
**Spinal Articulation (10pts)**  
**Weight (3pts)**  
**Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)**  
**Details (10pts)**

**Weeks 5-8 (Esplanade Assessment Wednesday 10/16)**

**Esplanade 1975 – Walking / Running /Falling / Hinging / Birding / Contraction**

**Esplanade Hinge Adagio (50pts) – Wednesday 10/16/2024**

**Sequencing (10pts)**  
**Spinal Articulation (10pts)**  
**Weight (10pts)**  
**Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)**  
**Details (10pts)**

**Esplanade The Passion and the Pain (50pts) – Wednesday 10/16/2024**

**Sequencing (10pts)**

Spinal Articulation (10pts)  
Weight (10pts)  
Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)  
Details (10pts)

**Weeks 9-12 (Junction 1961 or Cloven Kingdom 1976  
(Assessment Wednesday 11/13)**

**Junction 1961 – Scribble / Suspension / Contrast  
Cloven Kingdom 1976 – Strength / Power / Shape**

**Junction or Cloven Adagio (50pts) - Wednesday 11/13/2024**

Sequencing (10pts)  
Spinal Articulation (10pts)  
Weight (10pts)  
Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)  
Details (10pts)

**Junction or Cloven Big Combo (50pts) - Wednesday 11/13/2024**

Sequencing (10pts)  
Spinal Articulation (10pts)  
Weight (10pts)  
Kinespheric Awareness (10pts)  
Details (10pts)

**Weeks 13-15**

**Cloven Kingdom 1976 or Junction 1961**

**Just for fun! No assessments!**

**FINAL CYPHER (10%)** For the final exam, students will meet for a session to reflect on the semester. A discussion prompt will be provided prior to the exam date. **Attendance at the final exam is mandatory and part of the grade for this course.** The final meeting of this class will take place in accordance with the USC Schedule of Classes Final Exam Schedule **Monday, December 16 8-10 a.m. – (10pts)**

#### **Grading Breakdown**

<b>Assessments</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Aureole Assessments Week 4	30%
Esplanade Assessments Week 8	30%

Junction or Cloven Kingdom Assessments Week 12 Assessment	30%
Final Cypher	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>