

USC Kaufman

Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

DANC 181a Contemporary

Section: 22395R

Units: 2

Term: Fall 2024

Day: Friday

Time: 2:00-3:50 PM

Location: KDC 107

Instructor: Patrick Corbin

Office: KDC 229

Office Hours: M, W, F 8am-10am, M, F 4-5pm

Contact: pcorbin@usc.edu – Reply within 48 hours.

Catalog Description

An introduction to methods developed from modern and post-modern dance techniques, including the study of the rebellious, individualistic, and democratic nature of dance in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce modern dance fundamentals at a beginning level that expand into contemporary dance technique. Classroom exercises and materials will be informed by historical pioneers of modern dance and contemporary choreographers and practitioners. Exercises will build strength, flexibility, and stamina, as well as sharpen the student's awareness of body, movement and physical environment. Particular attention will be paid to the breath in relation to the movement, relationship(s) to gravity, precision, focus, musicality, the development of healthy range of motion, and the purposeful application of effort.

Learning Objectives

- Practice and memorize beginning level contemporary dance warm-up and phrase material
- Demonstrate, through class work, an introductory-level understanding of contemporary dance as presented in this course, including embodied elements, basic theory, and historical framework.
- Participate in group discussion related to modern and contemporary dance
- Engage in a basic practice of choreography, improvisation, and performance
- Analyze a professional performance or USC student performance

Proper Attire for Technique Class

No shoes please. Socks may be worn for warm-up, and may be removed for phrase work. Any clothing that does not restrict the student's range of movement (or the instructor's ability to observe movement) is acceptable; along these lines, long pants are strongly suggested to facilitate floor work. For some floor work, knee pads are also acceptable.

Required Readings, Watch List and Supplementary Materials

Taking Root to Fly (links to pdfs on Brightspace)

YouTube Playlists

The American Moderns Playlist

The Post-modern playlist

The Contemporary Playlist

All readings & YouTube viewings will be posted on Brightspace. Students should be prepared to discuss these videos in class.

Description and Assessment of Assignments:

There are two short papers required for this course. Papers are due by the end of the due date via Turnitin. Papers should be typewritten and carefully proofread. (12 pt. font, 1.5 spacing, 1-inch margins).

Self-directed Contemporary Dance Choreographer Paper 20%

Identify a current contemporary dance choreographer and find a YouTube video to analyze and reflect upon. Why this choreographer? Why this video? What is current and contemporary about it? Contextualize the choreographer in the contemporary dance canon using biographical and professional career references. 2-3 pages in length. **DUE Friday December 13 2:00 PM (100 points)**

Live Performance Reflection Paper 20%

Students are required to attend one dance performance and to write a 2-3 page paper on their experience. Attendance is evidenced by a ticket stub with your name on it. **DUE**

Friday December 13, 2 PM (100 points)

There are wonderful performances throughout the spring semester presented within the Kaufman School of Dance and at various Los Angeles venues. A complete list will be provided on Brightspace.

Journal Entries 20%

Students will write brief journal entries via Brightspace following several prompts. This will empower the student to find practical applications and solutions to their alignment that extend beyond the practice of dance. Students will submit these entries via Brightspace. **(5 points each. 20 points total) DUE DATES: 9/13, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6**

Final Exam 25%

Students will be assessed in class on the date of the Final Exam.

Friday December 13, 2 PM 100 points

Participation 15%

As this is an embodied practice course. Your physical participation is required. Each class meeting is worth 7.69 points. 100 points total

Grading Breakdown:

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Journal #1	25	5%
Journal #2	25	5%
Journal #3	25	5%
Journal #4	25	5%
Contemporary Dance Choreographer Paper	100	20%
Performance Reflection	100	20%
Participation	100	15%
Final	100	25%
TOTAL	500	100%

Grading Scale:

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale.

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
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

Assignment Rubrics

All assignment rubrics are posted on Brightspace under Assignments.

Grading Timeline:

Papers will be graded and returned no more than two weeks after submission.

Late work:

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

Classroom norms/Community Agreements

Policy on the use of AI Generators:

As with including other sources in your research and assignments, it is critical to include proper citations and attributions when incorporating content created by generative AI. Visit the [Citing Generative AI](#) section of this guide more details on how to cite Generative AI using common writing styles and formats.

You should never attempt to present or include content created by others, including generative AI as your own. Attempting to take credit for content generated by AI or others without proper acknowledgement is a violation of USC's policies and standards for academic integrity and can result in disciplinary action. USC Libraries.

Course Evaluations:

[Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. The process and intent of the end-of-semester evaluation should be provided. In addition, a mid-semester evaluation is recommended practice for early course correction.]

Course schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 1 8/30	Intro-getting to know each other		
Week 2 9/6	Graham base - contract, release, spiral, parallel, 1 st position, brushes, improvisation		
Week 3 9/13	Graham base - contract, release, spiral, tilt, parallel, 2 nd position, brushes, improvisation	The American Moderns Playlist Ruth St. Denis Pt 1 A Tribute to Martha Graham Doris Humphrey Charles Weidman Taking Root to Fly 1 Visualizing Movement Potential	Journal #1
Week 4 9/20	The floor – Puppet, spiral, releasing tension. Supine body halves. Improvisation. Phrase work.	The American Moderns Playlist Jose Limon Pearl Primus Katherine Dunham Taking Root to Fly 1 Visualizing Movement Potential	
Week 5 9/27	The floor – Puppet, spiral, releasing tension. Supine body halves. Improvisation. Phrase work.	The American Moderns Playlist Merce Cunningham Paul Taylor Alvin Ailey TRF_2_On Breathing	
Week 6 10/4	Gesture, chance, Intro to Deep Method, Phrase work	Post-modern Playlist TRF_2_On Breathing	Journal #2
Week 7 10/11	Fall Recess No Class	Fall Recess No Class	Fall Recess No Class
Week 8 10/18	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Post-modern Playlist TRF_3_Finding Your Center	
Week 9 10/25	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist TRF_4_ Standing	
Week 10 11/1	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist TRF_4_ Standing	Journal #3
Week 11 11/8	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist TRF_7_The Spine	Self-directed Contemp Choreographer Paper Due
Week 12 11/15	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist TRF_7_The Spine	
Week 13 11/22	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist	Elective Experience
Week 14	Thanksgiving Break No Class	Thanksgiving Break No Class	Thanksgiving Break No Class
Week 15 12/6	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Contemporary Playlist	Journal #4
FINAL	Friday December 13, 2-4 PM	Deep warm-up Phrase work	Concert Report Due

KSOD Policies Required in Syllabus

Health and Wellness at Kaufman

Health and 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 wellness 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 wellness appointment prior to the class and CC your advisor and/or Dr. Hentis to the email. 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 a licensed clinical psychologist. Please see the student health website for more resources.

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Health Main: (213) 740-9355 (WELL) on call 24/7
Direct: 213-740-9788

Free physical therapy consultations are available for BFA students only. Students can make individual appointments for physical therapy with Dr. Marisa Hentis through the link tree or walk-in to the fitness zone and training room on the mezzanine level of KDC. All other Kaufman students may also receive physical therapy services at Engemann Student Health. Please reach out to Dr. Hentis for more information.

Dr. Marisa Hentis: Physical Therapy
Email: Marisa.Hentis@med.usc.edu
Direct: 847-809-7256

Free nutritional and dietary consultations are available for students. Students can make individual appointments through MySHR.

Michelle Katz, RD: Dietetics
Email: michelle.katz@med.usc.edu
Phone: (213) 740-9355 (WELL)

Student Basic Needs

USC Student Basic Needs provides support to students facing food insecurity, housing insecurity and financial insecurity. While their Trojan Food Pantry is temporarily closed, the department distributes grocery bags to students who do not have a meal plan; they also partner with World Central Kitchen to provide free restaurant-prepared meals. They also connect students to suitable housing or shelter in Los Angeles. Finally, they work with

USC Financial Aid to provide one-time supplemental funding for students in sudden financial distress due to unforeseen circumstances. Visit <https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/> for more information.

Dance majors in need are encouraged to contact their academic advisor, who can assist them with accessing these and other resources that may be available through USC Kaufman.

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

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).

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:

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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, compromises 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 handbook](#) 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.

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. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at 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 or otfp@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.