



dornsife.usc.edu/phed/

PHED 120 A

Yoga A introduction to Yoga

1 unit- Summer 2025

Location: PED SB1

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Office: PED 107

Physical Education & Mind Body Health (PEMBH) Mission:

Physical Education & Mind Body Health (PEMBH) provides a variety of opportunities for students to improve their general health and fitness through fitness related and recreational activities classes. Courses are designed to introduce students to various aspects of health and physical education principles. With this exposure, knowledge, and skill, students are better equipped to make choices regarding a healthy and active lifestyle. All classes stress the importance of exercise and leisure time activity to physical, mental, and social well-being.

Course Description

This class is an introduction to Classical yoga and will include the practice of postures (asana), breathing techniques (pranayama), relaxation and meditation.

Course Objective

- Outline the fundamentals of a yoga practice in a safe, supportive and academic environment.
- Execute and display proper body alignment to improve strength and flexibility.
- Integrate and implement breathing techniques for relaxation and stress management.
- Identify the basics of anatomy and physiology as it relates to a yoga practice.

PEMBH Objectives:

Students will understand the importance of sound health & fitness principles as they relate to better health & will be able to:

- Recognize the physical and mental benefits of increased physical activity.
- Examine the effect of nutrition, rest, and other lifestyle factors that contribute to better health.

Students will be exposed to a variety of activities providing them the opportunity to:

- Utilize physical activity as a tool to manage stress.
- Participate in a motivating and nurturing environment resulting in a greater sense of well-being and self-esteem.

Students will demonstrate proficiency through knowledge & acquired skills enabling them to:

- Develop an appreciation of physical activity as a lifetime pursuit and a means to better health.

Course Reader

The course reader is posted on Blackboard.

Brightspace

In addition to the course reader, class information as well as resources will be posted on the blackboard.

Equipment

You will need your own yoga mat (5mm or 1/4" is best), other props will be provided: straps, blocks, bolsters and blankets.

Evaluation Criteria

Assignment	20 points
Final	50 points
Active Participation	30 points
In-class work	30 points
Practical test	20 points
Point/grade-base cutoffs	
150-135	
134-120	
119-105	
104-90	
Below 89	

Plus and minus will be issued for each grade, based on percentage range.

Attendance

Because this is a Physical Education course, regular attendance is required for the participation portion of the grade and is a large component of your final grade. Tardiness and/or leaving early will not be tolerated as it disrupts the class and practice. If you are late or leave early, you will only receive partial credit for attending the class.

General Guidelines for practice

Please notify me of any injuries, illness, or medical conditions (including pregnancy), prior to starting your practice. This is confidential and necessary to avoid complications and to help adapt the practice to your specific needs as best we can.

Please wear clothing that allows freedom of movement, athletic wear is best, no jeans or street clothes and no socks or shoes as yoga is practiced barefoot. Practicing on an empty stomach is recommended, but not a rule. Cell phone should be turned off.

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Week 1	Introduction/Orientation. Review of syllabus. Practice: Use of Props/ modifications fundamentals of postures/ alignment/ breathing
Week 2	Overview of Philosophy, history. Intro to Classical yoga 1 st limb, Yama – Behavior and Social Conduct 2 nd limb, Nyama – Lifestyle Observation
Week 3	3 rd limb Asana – Physical Discipline, posture Anatomy & Physiology Practice: Surya Namascar A and B, vinyasa Assignment: dietary journal (3 days) – discovering habit patterns
Week 4	4 th limb- Pranayama- Breath control Ujjayi breathing <i>Focus on the Fundamentals of respiration and the effects on Stress reduction</i> Assignment Part 2: Analyze eating habits-application of yogic principles, cultivating healthy habits and taking personal responsibility for correcting negative habits (3 days)
Week 5	Pranayama continued 5 th limb, Pratyahara Practice: Yoga Nidra, (a guided, deep-relaxation practice called ‘yogic sleep’) Assignment Part 3: answer short essay question (summary of experience)
Week 6	Samyama (meditation) Practice Test due on Blackboard Assignment: All 3 parts due on Blackboard Final review
Week 7	Last practice FINAL: Posted on Blackboard

Academic Conduct & 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, 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 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.

Student & Disability Accommodations

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all 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.