

USC
THTR 185: Hip Hop Dance
Section 62731
Syllabus

Course Instructor: Bradley “Shooz” Rapier
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Location: Physical Education Building Room 207 (PED 207)

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 - 1:50pm

Prerequisite: None

Midterm: Date TBA

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday / Dec. 18th / 11-1pm

Course Description

This course will focus on foundations and origins of hip-hop dance and street dance culture, and the journey to today's current definitions of hip hop and freestyle dance. The class will be explored primarily through movement participation by the students with dance instruction, drills and routines demonstrated by the instructor, plus related video/YouTube assignments, and / or guest instructors. Students will be challenged and encouraged to understand and apply historical and practical knowledge of hip-hop.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of styles that reflect Urban Street Dance, such as breaking, funk styles (popping, locking), sub-styles (waves, glides), house, commercial hip hop, choreographed routines and more.
- Learn similarities and differences in dance and music forms that have been fused in hip hop today.
- Learn vocabulary within these hip hop and funk style dance forms.
- Learn foundations & routines within hip hop culture.
- Review differences between historical hip hop dance, mainstream commercial hip hop and social dances.
- Review history of street dance steps and styles and the pioneers and dance legends involved in their creation.
- Discuss importance and meaning of “freestyle” dance in the urban culture and the differences between choreography and freestyle.
- Cover the importance of rhythmic breakdowns and musicality of street dance.
- Retention of movement, routines, free style drills and new material on weekly basis.

Course Requirements

1. **Typed weekly journal:** write three to four sentences to reflect what was learned from the lectures each week AND on specific dance video clips assigned by instructor (**due the last day of class**).
2. **One written assignment:** 500 words (typed double space, 12 font, and one inch margins - incorporate appropriate vocabulary). Discuss history, approach, movements, musicality and form of one urban street dance style (popping, locking, breaking, house, etc.) and explain how it may differ from another style OR, after going to a hip hop event, live

show, groove night, or watching approved dance film or clip, write on that experience in terms of what styles you saw and/or learned about (**due the last day of class**).

3. **Create short routines:** working in small groups, students will be asked to create short routines based on specific dance steps given to them in name only (throughout term).
4. **Midterm:** will consist of an in-class dance performance. Criteria will be discussed during 2nd week of class (**date of midterm TBA**).
5. **One written exam (FINAL):** on hip-hop and urban street dance styles, their steps and the founders and legendary influences – **on Tuesday December 18th**.
*****Optional Bonus Points** - a prepared routine (minimum two people, 4-8 counts of eight) OR bonus paper (250 words).

Evaluation/ Grading/ & Policies

Each student will be individually evaluated on participation, skill improvement, written, verbal and physical understanding of urban dance styles, in conjunction with the stated course requirements.

Class Participation/Skill Progress: 45%

Based on punctuality, attitude, energy, participation and performance in individual and group activities (exercises, routines, etc). *Note: Skill Improvement, participation and progress made during the course as shown by overall individual performance and knowledge of what has been taught during class will be the major component of this 45%.

Practical evaluation (midterm test routines/class drills/final dances): 20%

Retention of movement, skill improvement, coordination, learning and retention of hip hop & funk style dances, differing steps, styles and musicality, routines & individual progress toward understanding freestyle.

Written Assignments/Exams: 35%

Typed Journals 5%

Written assignment 10%

Written exam 20%

Attendance

5 absences shall be permitted with no effect on the final grade.

More than 5 absences shall have an effect on the final grade as follows:

- 6 absences - lowers the earned grade one full letter (an A becomes a B, B- becomes a C-)
- 7 absences - lowers the earned grade 2 full letters
- 8 absences - lowers the earned grade 3 full letters
- Students may not receive credit for a course if they have accumulated 9 absences

*All absences will be counted, regardless of the circumstances or reasons for the absence.

Grading Scale

The following are **examples** of grading scales.

The final course grade is determined by the average of all assignments, based on the following scale: A = 4; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.3; B = 3; B- = 2.7; C+ = 2.3; C = 2; C- = 1.7; D = 1; F = 0.

When the average falls between two grades, the final grade will be weighted toward the positive end of the scale for students whose attendance and participation in class has been good, but will be weighted toward the negative end of the scale for those with poor attendance and participation.

A = 96-100 points
A- = 91-95 points
B+ = 88-90 points
B = 85-87 points
B- = 81-84 points
C+ = 78-80 points
C = 75-77 points
C- = 71-74 points
D+ = 67-70 points
D- = 61-63 points
F = 60 or below

Academic Integrity

Dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students, and the School of Theatre. Therefore, USC policies on academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Papers suspected of containing plagiarized material (the unacknowledged or inappropriate use of another's ideas, wording, or images) will be verified for authenticity by the School of Theatre through internet services. I expect you to familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current SCampus (www.usc.edu/dept/publications/scampus).

Disability Services

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776.

Tardiness

If you arrive more than 20 minutes late to class after class begins and the instructor has already taken roll then it will be considered a tardy. A total of 3 accounts of tardiness will constitute an unexcused absence. If you arrive 30 minutes late you may not participate in the course that day, and it is up to you to take observation notes on the class so you can catch up the following week.

Observations

If you are sick, injured or have a valid excuse (late is not one of them), you may sit out and take notes; however for your attendance to count at the end of class you must submit the written reason for the observation, along with the course name, your name, and the date. You are allowed up to 3 sick related observations. More than 3 will count as an unexcused absence.

Dance Attire

No tight jeans, no flip flops, no bare feet, no excessive jewelry, no short shorts or tight pants. Wear comfortable loose clothing. **COMFORTABLE TENNIS SHOES OR SIMILAR SHOES ARE REQUIRED.**

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Fall 2012 Weekly Video Journal Entries

Tuesday/Thursday students please watch the material assigned & write 3-4 reflective sentences.

August 28

World Order - Mindshift

<http://youtu.be/4ua64HbsBUo>

(I encourage you to check out their other clip: World Order - Machine Civilization)

September 4

Lindy Hop - Hellzapoppin (1941)

<http://youtu.be/qkthxBsIeGQ>

September 11 (Two clips)

1. Back in Soul Train 70's, 80's Line Dance

(This clip was recently removed by YouTube - if you missed it watch Soul Train Dancers: Jungle Boogie (1973), and Soul Train Line Dance to Earth Wind & Fire's - Mighty Mighty)

Go to the website: thelockersdance.com and check out the Lockers performance on Saturday Night live from 1975

September 18 (Two clips)

1. So You Think You Can Dance - Season One Finale (The Groovalos)

http://youtu.be/MxO_6I5SkDM

2. Super Stars of Dance - Groovalos 1st performance <http://youtu.be/wewQ9e4CAHk>

These are both on my website, bradleyrapier.com

September 25 (Three clips)

1. Nicholas Brothers in Stormy Weather <http://youtu.be/zBb9hTyLjfm>

2. The Berry Brothers: They are in the clip titled - Eleanor Powell-Fascinatin' Rhythm

<http://youtu.be/Bmhnb34XAcc>

3. Origin of the moonwalk http://youtu.be/-r_WJCCBSAU

October 2 (Three clips)

1. Janet Jackson - Alright (Featuring Heavy D) HQ

(In honor of Heavy D and a great video mixing, locking, party dances, street styles and appearances by legends The Nicholas Brothers, Cab Calloway and Cyd Charisse)

2. Yellow - Legion of Extraordinary Dancers

(Incredible current mix of street styles including popping, boogaloo, breaking, krumping, animation, classical jazz, etc.)

3. Streetscape vs. The Lockers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHoxZB1acD0>

October 9 (Two clips)

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9jghLeYufQ>

(Lil Buc with Yo Yo Ma. music is hard to hear, but love juxtaposition of the two styles and different music)

2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLGYxeL1iQ>

(Les Twins - my younger brothers! Haha!! Shows that new freestyle dance vibe based on foundations - popping, waving, animation, footwork, funk - but made their own. Incredible)

October 16 (Two clips)

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQRRnAhmB58>
(Turf Feinz: this is the video showing what is called turfin'. It's really just freestyle, but it has that another way of mixing dance styles with new music. It's like poetic krump popping animation.)
2. <http://youtu.be/NJaOc9nF0bE>
(Groovaloo Performance on Season Finale Dec. 16th, 2009)

October 23

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULu7GGTkld8&feature=related>
(Break B-Sides: Boogie Frantick & Malakai beats - slower animated and waving style)

October 30

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Fw_GnjE-des#!
(Mr. Rogers Popping)

November 6

http://www.bradleyrapier.com/Bradley_Rapier/HOME/HOME.html
(The Groovalos on DWTS: ATT Spotlight Performance)

November 13

In Class: Urban Tales 2012 – USC Repertory Dance Company

- #2 Subway, NYC
- I See Myself

November 27 – TBA