

CMST 2040: PERFORMANCE OF LITERATURE

Fall 2016 – Sections: 001

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Office:	Coates Hall 325 (The HopKins Blackbox)
Office Hours:	T/Th 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM; T/Th 11:50 AM – 12:50 PM
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Class Times:	Sections 03 & 04: T/Th 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM & T/TH 10:30 AM– 11:50 AM
Required Texts:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collins, Billy, ed. <i>Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry</i>. New York: Random House, 2003.2. Pelias, Ronald J. and Tracy Stephenson Shaffer. <i>Performance Studies: The Interpretation of Aesthetic Texts</i> (2nd Edition). Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2007.3. Shapard, Robert and James Thomas. <i>New Sudden Fiction: Short-short stories from America and Beyond</i>. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007.4. Stern, Jerome, ed. <i>Microfiction: An Anthology of Really Short Stories</i>. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1996

Course Description

CMST 2040 is an introductory level communication course designed to familiarize students with the study of literature through performance. This class is based in the assumption that performance is a method of understanding and enjoying literature as an expression of profound human experience. We will explore different methods of performing texts as well as learning to write about literary texts, performances and the act of performing.

As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2040 will teach students an awareness of, and the ability to formulate, rational interpretations of human experience AND enrich their competency in written and oral communication.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Student will actively participate in oral communication. Ignite, engage and embody imaginative and intellectual responses to imaginary worlds, literary texts and its language.
2. Assignments will stimulate student awareness of a dramatic potential in all literature.
3. Students will gain deeper appreciation of the self and other(s) by performing human experience in text.
4. Students will activate a flexible, effective, and expressive voice in the performance of literature.
5. Students will respond by expressing with their bodies in the performance of literature.
6. Students will sharpen basic communication skills.

Course Expectations

1. You will attend (show up physically) every scheduled class meeting and be on time and present (show up mentally/emotionally) for every class.
2. All assignments are expected to be on time. If you are assigned to perform or workshop on a certain day it is your job to switch days with a classmate and inform me of the switch. I will not allow you to change days once the schedule is set so please do not email me frantic messages asking for me to change the order.
3. You will be a respectful and receptive class member and actively participate in all aspects of the course. This includes (but is not limited to) turning OFF all electronic devices. Texting, calling, web surfing, or any other kind of electronic activity is not permitted during class time.
4. You will try your best with each assignment and seek help from your instructor/peers when needed.
5. As giving, preparing and executing performances is a stressful and arduous task, you will be expected to give your fellow classmates the attention and respect they deserve. Disrespect in the classroom WILL NOT be tolerated. Every member of the classroom can practice respectful behavior by actively speaking up in class, doing all readings and assignments, preparing for and practicing performances, giving helpful and encouraging feedback to their peers.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance & Participation:

Attendance is crucial for a communication studies course. You will be expected to be an active participant in this classroom and be on time for all lessons. There will be daily exercises that will factor into your final grade, these exercises can't be made up at a later date. In order to prevent miscommunication between you and your instructor, make sure I am informed so I can further help to aid and/or accommodate you in an emergency.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states: "If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged." After you receive the accommodation letter, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

Plagiarism: You are to assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are provided for a group project. Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) in part or in whole will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>. Your paper would be considered plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submit a paper in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

TITLE IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance.

In accordance with Title IX and other applicable law, Louisiana State University ("LSU") is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual misconduct which includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and retaliation. LSU prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct. This policy applies to all persons without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

Sex discrimination and sexual misconduct violate an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. LSU considers sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in all of its forms to be serious offenses. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy establishes a mechanism for determining when rights have been violated in employment, student life, campus support services, LSU programs and/or an academic environment.

LSU Commitment to Community - LSU is an interactive community in which students, faculty, and staff together strive to pursue truth, advance learning, and uphold the highest standards of performance in an academic and social environment.

ASSIGNMENTS: Below are summaries of assignments, detailed instructions are posted to Moodle.

Performances (425 points/42.5%): The focus of this class is live performance. *You must deliver all three assigned performances in order to receive a passing grade in the course.* It is imperative, due to the time constraints of each semester, for performances to be given on the days that they are assigned. The penalties for missing a performance are severe: failure to perform on an assigned day will result in the reduction of one letter grade for each class period missed until the performance is completed. Your earliest chance to complete the performance requirement is after everyone else has fulfilled his/her spot, or if another becomes available. If you miss class, come prepared to perform every class period until the performance requirement is fulfilled. **All three performances must be memorized!!!**

1. **Poetry Performance** (75 points)
2. **Prose Performance** (150 points)
3. **Final Performance** (200 points)

Performance Workshops:

Performance Workshop Analyses: are required for each day workshops are in progress. Each student will complete two performance analyses per workshop day. The focus of the analyses will vary depending on readings.

Rough Complete-sentence Scripts: You must submit a complete-sentence script/outline with a reference page for each performance, presentation, and paper—and by the date and time noted in the course Calendar. ***You will not earn credit, otherwise.***

Formatting Instructions: All written work for performances including rough drafts should be typed, double-spaced, printed on paper, with one-inch margins all around, in standard 12-point Times New Roman font, and stapled. Must include a Reference Page formatted in accordance with MLA/APA/Chicago guidelines.

***You must submit a script to earn credit for any workshop or performance.**

Workshops: Before you present your final performance for each unit you will be assigned workshop for your performance. This is essentially a practice run that allows you to get feedback from myself and your classmates before the final performance. The more prepared you are for your workshop, the more substantive the feedback you will receive. My expectation for workshops is that you have a rough script/outline, you have memorized half of your performance, made at least three performance choices, and analyze other performances. In addition, your workshop grade will factor into your performance grade.

*** (10% of your performance grades are based on your completion of workshop requirements)**

Homework/Assessments/etc. (275 points/27.5%):

Outside Performances (50 points/5%): You will attend two different shows in the HopKins Black Box theatre. One to view a show (10 points), and the other to critique (40 points) a show. This classroom is also an experimental laboratory, where faculty and graduate students stage full-length performance productions. These productions provide students of performance an opportunity to understand performance as an object of analysis and an epistemological method for cultural texts. The ticket is (and critique for one) is due the Monday following the performance. For critique, you'll submit a 2-page written response. Shows dates/times are listed on the departmental website.

Homework (25 points/2.5%): For the first performance (Poetry), I expect you to submit a written analysis of your performance.

Group Reading Presentations (100 points/10%): You will present a chapter to the class with an assigned reading group at two different points during the semester (50 points per presentation).

Pentad Critique Paper (100 points/10%): Part of understanding performance is learning how to articulate your response to performance. In addition to your production response, you will write a 5 page analysis of your prose selection. The quality of your writing matters and is part of the content of this course. I will assess your writing in terms of both content and style. Style includes components such as paper organization, sentence structure, accurate word choice, typographical mistakes, passive voice, spelling, and basic grammar errors.

Exams: (200points/20%):

Midterm exam and final exam are worth 100 points each. Exams can consist of any of the following combination: T/F; multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay.

Participation (100points/10%):

Participation takes the form of attendance, engagement, and commitment to all things we do in the class. This may or may not require outside work. You cannot simply show up to class, sign in, and receive participation points.

Grades: Final grades will be determined based on scores earned in the following assignments. All work must be done during the semester.

Course Assignment Point Breakdown: (1000-point total)

Poetry Performance	75 pts.
Prose Performance	150 pts.
Final Performance.....	200 pts.
Participation	100 pts.
Outside Performance View.....	10 pts.
Outside Performance Critique.....	40 pts.
Pentad Critique Paper	100 pts.
Poetry Homework	25 pts.
Group Reading Presentation	100 pts.
Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.

Your final grade assignment will be based on your total earned points at the end of the semester.

Grading Scale:

Point Range	Letter Grade
970.00 - 1000.00	A+
930.00 - 969.99	A
900.00 - 929.99	A-
870.00 - 899.99	B+
830.00 - 869.99	B
800.00 - 829.99	B-
770.00 - 799.99	C+
730.00 - 769.99	C
700.00 - 729.99	C-
670.00 - 699.99	D+
630.00 - 669.99	D
600.00 - 629.99	D-
< 600 points	F

Missed Performances/Presentations and/or Late Work:

If a student is **absent/late** the day she/he is scheduled to perform/present/submit an assignment, **and has not made PRIOR arrangements with me** (your instructor), a ZERO grade will be recorded for the assignment. Regarding performances, if time permits, on the last day of a major performance, then the performance can be made up.

If the student knows ahead of time that she/he cannot attend class the day of an assigned performance or presentation, she/he is welcome to find someone to switch dates without penalty.

Late Work: If you arrive late to class on any due date, your assignment will be reduced by one letter grade, even if you are “on time” for your own performance/presentation. Showing respect for your classmates by arriving on time to class on the day of presentations is of great importance.

If **prior** arrangements have been authorized by me, then late submissions will not be subject to penalty. If you miss class due to a university approved absence, you will be responsible to inform by coming to my office and providing me an original (hard copy) documentation in order to excuse a missed assignment (no digital documentation). ALWAYS see me during my office hours to arrange make-up work—make every effort to arrange makeups before the expected absence. I will not consider makeup assignments after 2 weeks has passed from its due date.

HAVE YOU DECLARED A MAJOR OR MINOR?

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, “To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education – literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills.” We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change, experience, and make sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, and the arts.

A major in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A minor requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above.

The Department of Communication Studies offers 6 Pathways of Study as guidance for students interested in taking CMST courses. These pathways include lists of courses that can be taken for students interested in the following areas within Communication Studies:

- Public Discourse
- Art and Culture
- Professional Communication
- Communication in Human Relationships
- Visual and Mediated Communication
- Create your Own Pathway

More information is available at www.lsu.edu/cmst or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel (kfilli@lsu.edu), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Schedule is subject to change): SEE SCHEDULE ON MOODLE