

CMST 3900

Performance Studies Environmental Production

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Office Hours: MWF 2:30-4; or by appointment

Required Text:

Selected Texts – Posted on Moodle.

General Education Statement:

CMST 3900 is a class designed around conceptualizing our relationality to producing performance studies shows with a particular emphasis on environmental concepts. CMST 3900 will enable students to theorize, articulate, and embody production elements in regards to environmental issues. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity inherent in production issues as they are articulated through a Performance Studies paradigm.

In this course, we will explore how we, as human beings, form a relationship to the environment through production aspects. We will discuss the political and social impacts of environmental discourse and how such discourse is articulated through production elements. We will produce texts, performances, designs, and proposals that challenge normative understandings of the performance environments, while increasing the plurality and complexity of everyday life. The mission of the class is to alter our perception (or rather, the means by which we primarily perceive) of the world and how we give our own perception

primacy.

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

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 may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter, please meet with me at some time during the first two weeks of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to production concepts (light, sound, and PR design) through an examination of environmental concerns. The course examines several different types of relationalities which include but are not limited to: Lighting, sound, set construction, and advertising as a production of affective environments. These aspects will challenge the frameworks built into our understanding of how articulate our relationship to environmental concerns. We will use embodied and mediated performance as a method for investigating epistemological and ontological claims.

Course Goals:

This course should help you design a performance with a focus on engaging environmental concerns. Depending on your emphasis in the course it may ask you to: write, memorize, and direct performance material, design lighting and sound with a particular affective dimension, produce marketing materials for a HBB production. You will learn various concepts about affective environments, but the practice of the course is located in the performing and design *of* the environment. You will relate these

performances to various areas of your life, while also expanding the boundaries of how one appreciates, critiques, and produces environmental performance.

Six kinds of Significant Learning:

In this course, we will utilize six kinds of significant learning.

1) Foundational Knowledge: understanding and remembering important concepts and terminology

How: Reader's Notes 2)

Application: applying the concepts; putting into action what you have learned and developing critical, creative, and practical thinking skills. How: Classroom Workshops/Reader's Notes

3) Valuing: learning how to recognize, develop, and reflect on feelings, interests, and values

How: Discussions 4) Human Dimension (personal and social): Learning about yourself and

others How: Construction of Performance Texts

5) Learning How to Learn: encouraging the continuation of learning outside the classroom through self-directed inquiring about a subject

How: Embodied Practice 6) Integration: understanding the connection between ideas and experiences

and how they relate to other realms of life outside the classroom.

How: Performances

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Patti Pace Festival –

- a. Each student will participate in the production of a Performance Studies Festival about environmental issues. Related tasks may include: Designing lights, sound, set, PR materials, or facilitating the operation of the festival.

2. Reader's Notes

- a. Each student will complete four Reader's Notes over required material. These papers are designed to integrate concepts and apply the material to our individual practice.
- b. Reader's Notes Requirements: One Page/ Double Spaced/ 12 pt. font/ Times New Roman.

How to Complete a Reader's Note:

- c. Define a Term: Find a key idea in the reading that resonates with you and provide an personal clarification of the term.
- d. Apply the Term: Please use your own experience to explain how the term or concept works.
- e. Questions: Please ask three questions for the class that emerge from the reading. These can be questions of clarification or audience feedback. The more complex the question, the more productive our discussions will be.

3. Design Concept –

- a. Each student will produce a design concept for their particular area and present it to the class.

4. Production –
 - a. Each student will produce an aspect of their design as one part of an overall production concept.
5. Attend Two Shows in the HopKins BlackBox Theatre–You must watch two shows over the course of the semester (there are three shows total). Your attendance is required to provide a live Performance Studies perspective, which should help influence your work in this class.

GRADING POLICY/POINT BREAKDOWN

Assignment: Points	Number	Points	Total
Patti Pace	1	200	200
Reader's Notes	4	20	80
Design Presentation	1	100	100
Final Proposal	1	100	100
Workshops	25	20	500
HBB Shows	2	10	20
Total Points			1000

Course Grading Scale:

A+ = 1000-980

A = 979-930

A- = 929-900

B+ = 899-880

B = 879-830

B- = 829-800

C+ = 799-780

C = 779-730

C- = 729-700

D+ = 699-680

D = 679-630

D- = 599-000

Missed Assignments and Performances:

Due to the nature of the course, there is no late work accepted. Each day will function as a workshop and each workshop will factor in as a part of your overall grade. Since we are on a strict production timeline, all work must be completed on time.

Assignment Due Dates:

Assignments are due at class time on the specified day. If an assignment is due on Monday, the assignment must be ready by class time. It does not mean you can turn in the assignment on Monday at 11:59pm. PLEASE DO NOT email me your assignment.

Email:

If you email me with a question about an assignment or any other question concerning class, please allow at least 24 hours for a reply. If you email me the night before an assignment is due, there is no guarantee I will read and respond to your email before class time. There is also no guarantee that I will check my email

over the weekend. If you have an assignment due on Monday, please do not wait until Saturday or Sunday to email me with a question.

Attendance:

Your attendance is required through our workshops. There are no excused absences other than those in compliance with the universities policy on related absences.

Late policy:

I will take attendance for the workshops at the beginning of class. If you are not in class at that time you are absent.

Note that the day before and the day after a scheduled university holiday are regular class days. Classes will be held and assignments will be due. Please make travel plans with this in mind. Vacations are not university excused absences.

Course Schedule: Please note: The course schedule will adapt depending on how we, as a class, are progressing toward our course goals. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out if assignment due dates/course schedule have changed.

Weekly Schedule – Spring 17

Week 1

JAN Wed 11th - Introduction to Course

JAN Friday 13th - Group and Task Assignments

Week 2

JAN Mon 16th - **MLK no class**

JAN Wed 18th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival

JAN Fri 20th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival

Week 3

JAN Mon 23rd - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival

JAN Wed 25th – **Guest Artist – No class**

JAN Fri 27th – **Guest Artist – No class**

Week 4

JAN Mon 30th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival - PR Design
FEB Wed 1st - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival – Sound Design
FEB Fri 3rd - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival – Light Design

Week 5

FEB Mon 6th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival
FEB Wed 8th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival
FEB Fri 10th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival

Week 6

FEB Mon 13th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival
FEB Wed 15th - Workshop for Patti Pace Festival
FEB Fri 17th – **Patti Pace Festival – Attendance Required**

Week 7

FEB Mon 20th – Review of Patti Pace Festival
FEB Wed 22nd – Light Design – RN 1
FEB Fri 24th – Workshop in Groups

Week 8

FEB Mon 27th – **Mardi Gras – No class**
FEB Wed 1st – Workshop in Groups
MAR Fri 3rd – Sound Design RN 2

Week 9

MAR Mon 6th – Set Design – RN 3 / Group and Task Roles
MAR Wed 8th – Workshop in Groups
MAR Fri 10th – Workshop in Groups

Week 10

MAR Mon 13th – PR Design RN 4
MAR Wed 15th – Workshop in Groups
MAR Fri 17th – Workshop in Groups

Week 11

MAR Mon 20th – **Preliminary Design Presentation**
MAR Wed 22nd – **Preliminary Design Presentation**
MAR Fri 24th – **Preliminary Design Presentation**

Week 12

MAR Mon 27th – Workshop in Groups
MAR Wed 29th - Workshop in Groups

MAR Fri 31st - Workshop in Groups

Week 13

APR Mon 3rd - **Presentation of Design**

APR Wed 5th - **Presentation of Design**

APR Fri 7th – **Presentation of Design**

Week 14

APR Mon 10th **Spring Break – no class**

APR Wed 12th **Spring Break – no class**

APR Fri 14th **Spring Break – no class**

Week 15

Mon 17th – Explanation of Show Proposals

Wed 19th – Explanation of Show Proposals

Fri 21st – Explanation of Show Proposals

Week 16

Mon 24th – Proposal Workshop

Wed 26th - Proposal Workshop

Fri 28th - Proposal Workshop

Week 17

Finals Week - **Final Proposals Due**