

Intro to Perform Studies - LMC-2600-N

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Office Hours

In person T, Th 11:30-12:15 and at other times online. Please contact me ahead of time if you wish to meet with me either way.

Course Modality

This course is offered in person only.

Course Description

The premise of Performance Studies, an academic discipline that has grown exponentially since the late 1960s, is that performance is a fundamental category of human (and perhaps not just human) activity not limited to the performing arts. One of the projects of Performance Studies has been to develop a general theory of performance by considering what the many things we may call performance have in common. This iteration of LMC 2600 will follow this path by identifying fundamental characteristics of performance and performing.

Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with the intellectual inquiry that drives Performance Studies as a field and the uses of the idea of performance as a heuristic with broad applicability.

Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret cultural projects such as theater, film, television, and new media, as well as cultural performances and everyday behavior.

Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, cultural, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to cultural performances, everyday behavior, and creative texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.

General Requirements

- Preparation: Course Reading, Listening, and Viewing
- Attendance at class sessions.
- Active participation in discussion and class activities. This course will be lecture-based, with substantial opportunity for in-class discussion and presentations.
- Completion of Assignments enumerated below

You are not permitted to use materials developed for other courses to fulfill these requirements.

Please note the grade penalties for not submitting required assignments by their deadlines described below under General Policies.

Conduct of Course

This course will be based in discussion of the materials before us. It will combine lecture with discussion and group work both in and out of class. It is imperative that you stay up to date on the reading assignments so that we can devote our class time to discussion and analysis.

Attendance Policy

Attendance requirement. You may miss a total of **three (3)** classes over the course of the semester without penalty. If at all possible, please contact the instructor when you know you will not be in class.

- **Reasons for absences.** The attendance policy does not make any distinction about the reasons for your absences. Only absences officially exempted by the Institute (e.g., due to participation in official GA Tech athletics, to religious observance, to personal or family crisis confirmed by documentation from the Dean of Students) will not be counted among your allotted absences. These exemptions are difficult to get.
- **Responsibility for missed work.** Students are responsible for finding out what they may have missed while absent from class and what policy the instructor has for making up missed work. However, **if you are not present to participate in a group presentation, you will fail the course.**
- **Absence penalties.** Each additional absence after the allotted number deducts one-half of a letter grade (5 pts) from your final grade. Please click [here \(http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/\)](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/) to see Georgia Tech's updated institutional attendance policy.

Please note that Georgia Tech policy requires you to wait twenty minutes for the instructor to arrive before concluding that the class is not meeting (this policy is included here primarily for your information).

Readings

The textbook for this course is Richard Schechner, *Performance Studies: An Introduction*, 4th Edition (2020). Please download it [here \(https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951585?wrap=1\)](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951585?wrap=1). This text will be designated as "PS" on the Course Schedule. All other course readings are available to you in .pdf form via specific links on the Course Schedule. Please have the relevant ones available during class meetings in case we need to consult them.

Grading

Please note: work that simply meets the requirements of the assignment will receive a grade of "C." Grades of "A" and "B" designate levels of distinction in quality and content of the work.

Three Quizzes @ 20 pts: 60 pts

Participation on Piazza: 60 pts

Three Group Performance Exercises @ 20 pts (all members of each group receive the same grade): 60 pts

Total: 180 pts

Final Grade Scale: To get a final grade of A, you must have earned at least a numerical grade of at least 162. For a B, you must have a numerical grade of at least 144; 126 for a C; 108 for a D. Please use these benchmarks to interpret your numerical grades.

The numerical grade generated by this calculation is subject to modification in either direction in light of attendance, class participation, and other indications of engagement with and commitment to the course (or lack thereof). Please note that I do not automatically round up numerical grades at any stage.

Required Work

More information and details on all assignments will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. All deadlines are provided on the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. Policies regarding the submission of work appear below under General Policies.

Quizzes

There will be three 75-minute quizzes to be taken **online**. These quizzes will not be cumulative: each will address the course material since the previous quiz. I will post the quizzes on the dates indicated below and give you a window of a week in which to choose a time to take the quiz. The quiz will be set up so that you will have 75 minutes to complete it and only one try. These quizzes are closed book and governed by the Honor Code. If you do not complete the quiz during the allotted window, you will forfeit the points associated with it.

Most likely, all quizzes will have the same types of question: short-answer questions, basically terms or names that I will ask you to identify in two sentences, and paragraph-answer questions that will ask you synthesize the material we've been discussing. Any changes of format or procedure will be announced. There is a possibility that I will want you to view a video to address on the quiz. If so, I will give you extra time to access the media.

Group Performance Exercises

In the course of the semester, there will be three Group Performance Exercises directly related to topics and readings of the course. I will ask you to develop and present a creative response to a specific assignment. All Group Members are to perform in all exercises unless otherwise noted.

Each project will have several stages. The first will be an in-class Brainstorming Session during which the entire class will brainstorm approaches to the assignment. At the end of the session, each group will take up one of the proposed approaches (not necessarily one they proposed). You will have a week to prepare your performance outside of class. after which you will perform it during class. The final stage

will be the documentation of the performance, a document consisting of a short written summary of the content of your project and the decisions the group made following your adoption of an approach (further instructions appear in the assignments on Canvas). These will be due after you have performed or presented your work in class.

Please note the dates on which the work on these exercises is to be done and be sure to be in class then. Please also note the consequences of missing such a session mentioned in the Attendance policy above.

Participation in Piazza

There is an online forum for this course on Piazza. The purpose of Piazza is to provide students with a virtual space outside the classroom in which to raise questions about course materials and discuss them. Participation in Piazza accounts for 1/3 of your grade for this course. This means that I expect you to post substantively to Piazza at least 12 times during the semester. Your post should either initiate or respond to a discussion of the course materials or a closely related topic. "Substantively" means a decent paragraph, not just a sentence or two. Please note that I will not be grading your individual posts, though I will respond to them selectively on Piazza. As long as you contribute substantively by the stated deadlines, you will earn all of the points in this category. **Please note that I am not asking you to summarize course material or class discussion. I am asking you to respond to these, raise your own questions about them, and extend our classroom discussions.**

You will lose 5 points from your final grade for each posting deadline missed. If I feel that your contributions are not substantive enough to merit credit, I will contact you privately. You can access Piazza through Canvas. You should be automatically enrolled in the course's Piazza site. If there are issues with this, please let me know.

I have created 12 folders on Piazza, one for each post. Please place your post in the appropriate folder: the first in hw1, the second in hw2, etc.

The posting deadlines, listed on the syllabus, will generally be on Saturdays at 11:59 PM with the expectation that you will discuss the preceding week's material (exceptions are noted on the course schedule). If you wish to make connections with earlier material or other stuff, that's good. However, your posts should always focus on the material since the previous posting deadline. **Please note that your last post, due on 5/1, should be devoted to a reflection on what you're taking away from the course as a whole.**

Extension Policy

You may take one 48-hour extension on an appropriate assignment during the semester as long as you request it at least 24 hours before the assignment's deadline. Under no circumstances will an extension be granted after the deadline. This policy applies to quizzes, Piazza posts, and performance documentation. An extension on a performance document will count as the one permitted extension for

all group members. If a group member has already used an extension for another assignment, the group cannot request an extension.

Information Related to Covid-19:

Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Institute guidelines, information, and updates related to Covid-19. Find campus operational updates, Frequently Asked Questions, and details on campus surveillance testing and vaccine appointments on the Tech Moving Forward site.

Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions:

Classes may not be recorded by students without the express consent of the instructor unless it is pursuant to an accommodation granted by the Office of Disability services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course.

The Communication Center

Georgia Tech's Naugle CommLab is located in Clough Commons, Suite 447. It is an excellent resource for all students (undergraduate or graduate) who want help with a communication-related project, from their multimodal assignments for English 1101 and English 1102 to graduate school applications, from engineering and science reports to oral presentations, from storyboards for videos to poster designs, from grant proposals to job cover letters and resumes. The center itself is physically located in Clough; for the safety of our staff and students during this pandemic many of our consultations will be online (students who require an in-person consultation should email commlab@gatech.edu to schedule). The Center provides both synchronous (via BlueJeans) and asynchronous consultations with peer (usually upper-division undergraduate) and professional (postdoctoral) consultants who are each uniquely qualified to provide students with feedback on their projects. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit the Center's webpage at <http://commlab.gatech.edu>. Again, if you have any questions, please email us at commlab@gatech.edu.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in broader society

CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center

These uncertain times can be difficult, and many students may need help in dealing with stress and mental health. The CARE Center and the Counseling Center, and Stamps Health Services will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Face-to-face appointments will require wearing a face covering and

social distancing, with exceptions for medical examinations. Student Center services and operations are available on the Student Center website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the Division of Student Life.

Students With Disabilities

Any student who feels that he/she may need an accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see the instructor during office hours. Students with disabilities should also contact Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) to discuss reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor call (404) 894-2564 (voice) / (404) 894-1664 (voice/TDD) or visit Suite 210 in the Smithgall Student Services Building. For more information visit the following website: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>. (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>)

Academic Honesty

All work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside reference sources properly cited and acknowledged.

The "Student Conduct Code of the Rules and Regulations" (Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog, Section XIX) states, "Academic misconduct is an act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student academic records" and offers the following descriptive list:

- Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
- Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism);
- False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
- Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of the student.

The Code continues, "While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor." Consult the Honor Code online at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/> or in the General Catalog to remember your primary commitment to academic honesty. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may receive a 0.0 on the assignment or fail the course. In addition, the instance will be reported to the Dean of Students who may take further action.

General Policies

Your work for this course is to be submitted via Canvas. Your work is due by the stated deadline; all grades and course communications will be posted on Canvas.

You are required to retain a copy of every assignment for the entire semester in case any problems should arise with Canvas. Please be vigilant about making certain that materials you posted actually appear. It is your responsibility to ensure that your material is present on Canvas at its deadline.

Canvas will accept your work after the posted deadline. However, you will lose 10% of the assignment's point value for each hour or fractional hour past the deadline you submit it (this policy does not apply to Piazza posts). For example, if an assignment is worth 20 points and you pass it in within an hour after the deadline, I will deduct two points from your grade. If you pass it in an hour after that, I will deduct four points, etc. This policy applies to both group and individual assignments.

I strongly recommend that you post your work significantly ahead of all deadlines. Remember: Canvas's clock is the only one that matters. Canvas is the final arbiter of when your work was submitted.

Please also make sure that the material you submit is what you want me to grade. Whatever is on the site at the deadline is what I will grade. I will not accept other versions past the deadline under any circumstance.

If you experience a legitimate problem with Canvas, please contact me by email immediately. Do not submit work by email unless I specifically ask you to do so.

I reserve the right to give extra assignments and quizzes, announced or unannounced and to make changes to this document.

Course Schedule

This schedule is a starting point; it is subject to change.

1/10 Introduction to Course.

1/12 What is Performance? Read PS 3-12, 16-19.

1/13 **Piazza Post #1 Due by 11:59 PM.**

Elements, Structures, and Effects of Performance

1/17 The Quadrilogue. Read PS 60-66.

1/19 Performance Processes. Read PS 38-60.

1/20 **Piazza Post #2 Due by 11:59 PM.**

1/24 Read [Butler, *Excerpt from Playing with Something That Runs*](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951573?wrap=1) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951573?wrap=1>) and [Auslander](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/38307147?wrap=1) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/38307147?wrap=1>). [Examples.](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/piano-and-edm) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/piano-and-edm>)

1/26 Transportation and Transformation. Read PS 150-152.

1/27 **Piazza Post #3 Due by 11:59 PM.**

The Experience of Performing

1/31 Why Perform? Read Davidson, "[The Solo Performer's Identity.](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951561?wrap=1)"
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951561?wrap=1>) **Examples**
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/the-solo-performers-identity>).

2/2 Flow. Read PS 174-5; Rink, "[Impersonating the Music in Performance](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951559?wrap=1)";
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951559?wrap=1>) and Biasutti, "[Flow and Optimal Experience.](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951557?wrap=1)" (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951557?wrap=1>).

2/3 **Piazza Post #4 Due by 11:59 PM. First Quiz Available.**

Audiences

2/7 Audience. Read Abercrombie and Longhurst, "[Forms of the Audience.](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951565?wrap=1)"
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951565?wrap=1>)

2/9 First Performance Exercise Brainstorming Session.

2/10 **First Quiz Due by 11:59 PM.**

2/14 Audience. Read Heim, "[Audience as Performer.](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951563?wrap=1)"
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951563?wrap=1>)

2/16 **First Performance Exercise Presented in Class.**

2/17 **Piazza Post #5 Due by 11:59 PM.**

Framing

2/21 Read PS 180-182 and the text on [this course page](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/framing)
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/framing>).

2/23 Read Goffman, "[The Theatrical Frame,](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951567?wrap=1)" pp. 124-138.
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951567?wrap=1>) **Documentation of First Performance Exercise Due by 11:59 PM.**

2/24 **Piazza Post #6 Due by 11:59 PM.**

2/28 Guest Lecture: Claire Stricklin, Ph.D. Candidate in Digital Media.

3/2 Read Kirby, "[On Acting and Not-Acting,](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951577?wrap=1)"
(<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951577?wrap=1>) 40-45 and PS 80-82. **Second Quiz Available.**

3/3 **Piazza Post #7 Due by 11:59 PM.**

- 3/7 Read Small, "[A Place for Hearing.](#)" (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951579?wrap=1>). (The first chapter in the downloadable document.) [Examples](https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/a-place-for-hearing) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/a-place-for-hearing>).
- 3/9 Second Performance Exercise Brainstorming Session. **Second Quiz Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 3/10 **Piazza Post #8 Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 3/15 Work Session for Second Performance Exercise
- 3/16 **Second Performance Exercise Presented in Class.**
- 3/21-23 Spring Break**
- Social Performance**
- 3/28 Ritual and Ceremony. Read PS 121-123; 144-150; 152-3 (this is the rest of the passage on transportation and transformation we discussed earlier). [Examples.](#) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/pages/ritual>)
- 3/30 Sports as Ritual? Read Rowe, "[Modern Sports: Liminal Ritual or Liminoid Leisure?](#)" (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951587?wrap=1>)
- 3/31 **Piazza Post #9 Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 4/4 Social Drama. Read PS 153-156. **Documentation of Second Performance Exercise Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 4/6 Presentation of Self. Read PS 104-108 (please browse 108-118 as well). Review [Kirby's](#) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951577?wrap=1>) definitions of acting on p. 43 and the first paragraph on 44.
- 4/7 **Piazza Post #10 Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 4/11 Presentation of Self. Read Goffman, [Excerpts from The Presentation of Self](#) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951589?wrap=1>), 18-30.
- 4/13 Presentation of Self. Read Goffman, [Excerpts from The Presentation of Self](#) (<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/299186/files/37951589?wrap=1>), 106-115; 248-255.
- 4/14 **Piazza Post #11 Due by 11:59 PM.**
- 4/18 Third Performance Exercise Brainstorming Session. **Third Quiz Available.**
- 4/20 Work Session for Third Performance Exercise
- 4/25 **Third Performance Exercise Presented in Class. Third Quiz Due by 11:59 PM.**

5/1 **Documentation of Third Group Performance Exercise** AND **Piazza Post #12** Due by 11:59
PM.