

CMST 2040: Introduction to Performing Literature

Instructor: Dr. Christopher C. Collins

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Office Hours: TTh 9:30-10:30 / 1:30-3:00; or by appointment. If I am not in my office you can often locate me in the Hopkins Black Box Theatre, 137 Coates Hall

Catalog Description:

The study of literature through performance; reading, analysis and performance of prose, poetry, and drama.

Required Text:

Pelias, Ronald J. and Tracy Stephenson Shaffer. *Performance Studies: The Interpretation of Aesthetic Texts (2nd Edition)*. Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 2007.

Shapard, Robert and James Thomas. *New Sudden Fiction: Short-short Stories from America and Beyond*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007.

Stern, Jerome. *Micro Fiction: An Anthology of Really Short Stories*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1996.

Collins, Billy. *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry*. New York: Random House, 2003

Course Description/Goals:

CMST 2040 is a *General Education Humanities Course* designed to familiarize students with the study of literature through performance. Based on 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 performing.

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

Through the semester, we hope to:

- 1) Engage and embody imaginative and intellectual response to literary texts and language.
- 2) Stimulate an awareness of a variety of forms of literature.
- 3) Deepen appreciation of self and other as they interact in engaging human experience.

- 4) Activate a flexible, effective and expressive voice in the performance of literature.
- 5) Develop a responsive and expressive body in the performance of literature.
- 6) Sharpen basic written and oral communication skills.

Course Policies:

Attendance AND Late work:

CMST 2040 is a practice based course, which means that you need to attend class to participate in the “doing” of performance. However, I will not take role – you are accountable for the work (if you decide to attend, please do not arrive late to class).

If you miss a performance you can only receive half of the attributed points.

I do not accept late work. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ME YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!!!!

Critique Paper and HBB Show Attendance:

You are required to attend two shows in the HopKins Black Box over the course of the semester. You must submit a one-page response about your observations and experience of the show. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER! I will not offer additional opportunities to complete this assignment.

Email: I often use email to maintain communication with the class. Please check your email regularly for announcements. It is your responsibility to remain aware of all comments, announcements, notes and changes.

Cell Phones and Computers in Class: This class is a no cell phone zone, unless otherwise specified for an assignment.

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.

Grading

Performances

Poetry Performance	150
Prose Performance	150
Compiled Performance	150

Paper	Prose Research Paper	200
Tests	Midterm	100
	Final	100
Additional Work	Performance Critiques X2	50
	Reader's Notes X5	50
	Compilation Text	50
Total Points		1000

Course Grading Scale:

A+	= 1000-980
A	= 969-930
A-	= 929-900
B+	= 899-880
B	= 869-830
B-	= 829-800
C+	= 799-780
C	= 769-730
C-	= 729-700
D+	= 699-680
D	= 669-630
D-	= 629-600
F	= 599-000

Prose Paper: For this written assignment, you will write a five to seven page paper critiquing your prose performance using Burke's Pentad. This paper will count for 200 points and **MUST** be written in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. It should be clear and concise with concrete examples. Make sure you have an introduction, body, and a conclusion.

To achieve the goals of the General Education Requirement for this class, this paper should illustrate much of what you have learned over the semester: that you can identify larger themes, structures, literary devices, and rhetorical patterns in the text/performance and that you can communicate those finds in an organized, clear, and concise manner.

Reader's Notes — Each Reader's Note requires to write a paper that engages the reading material. These papers are designed to integrate concepts with application through our interactions with other class members.

- a. Define a Term: Find a key idea in the text that resonates with you. Provide an explanation of what the idea means to you.
- b. Apply the Term: Please use your own experience (aesthetic or personal) to explain how the term or concept works.
- c. 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.

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.

**2040 – 10:30-11:50
PS – Pelias and Shaffer**

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Jan 11 – INTRODUCTION TO COURSE / SYLLABUS

Week 2

Jan 16 – PS CHAPTER 1/2

Jan 18 – PS CHAPTER 3/4

Week 3

Jan 23 – PS CHAPTER 6/7

Jan 25 – PS CHAPTER 10/12

Week 4

Jan 30 – POETRY WORKSHOP

Feb 1 – POETRY WORKSHOP

Week 5

Feb 6 – POETRY WORKSHOP

Feb 8 – POETRY WORKSHOP

Week 6

Feb 13 – **Mardi Gras Holiday**

Feb 15 – **POETRY PERFORMANCE**

Week 7

Feb 20 – **POETRY PERFORMANCE**

Feb 22 – **POETRY PERFORMANCE**

Week 8

Feb 27 – **MIDTERM**

Mar 1 – PS CHAPTER 8/9

Week 9

Mar 6 – PS CHAPTER 11/5 / PROSE WORKSHOP

Mar 8 – PROSE WORKSHOP

Week 10

Mar 13 – PROSE WORKSHOP

Mar 15 – **PROSE PERFORMANCE**

Week 11

Mar 20 – **PROSE PERFORMANCE**

Mar 22 – **PROSE PERFORMANCE**

Week 12

Mar 27 – **Spring Break**

Mar 29 – **Spring Break**

Week 13

Apr 3 – COMPILED PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Apr 5 – **CSCA**

Week 14

Apr 10 – COMPILED PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Apr 12 – COMPILED PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Week 15

Apr 17 – COMPILED PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Apr 19 – **COMPILED PERFORMANCE**

Week 16

Apr 24 – COMPILED PERFORMANCE

Apr 26 – **COMPILED PERFORMANCE**

Week 17

Apr 30-May 5 – **FINAL EXAMS.**

