

## CMST 2040: INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING LITERATURE

Dr. Tracy Stephenson Shaffer

HopKins Black Box (137 Coates Hall)

10:30-11:50 Tuesday and Thursday

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3 and by appointment

tsteph3@lsu.edu

**This syllabus provides basic information on the course and Department of Communication Studies.  
More information will be provided on Moodle and in class.**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** The study of literature through performance; reading, analysis and performance of prose and poetry.

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 inquiry and enjoying literature is an expression of human experience, we explore different methods of performing texts, and learn 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.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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

Collins, Billy, ed. *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry*. New York: Random House, 2003. (This text may be found online for free.)

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

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

## **SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATIONS**

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 with LSU Disability Services (124 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged. After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations during the first two weeks of class.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Use of technology is prohibited to devices aiding in student learning—so, phones are almost always a NO unless specifically noted by the instructor. Laptops and note-taking devices used as learning aids are permitted. You should also have paper and writing utensils for in-class activities. In case of emergencies requiring phone access, notify your instructor. You are not allowed to record others without permission.

## **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. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. If you have concerns, contact:

Jennie Stewart, Campus Title IX Coordinator [jstewart@lsu.edu](mailto:jstewart@lsu.edu), 225-5788200

Maria Fuentes Martin, Deputy Coord Students [mari@lsu.edu](mailto:mari@lsu.edu), 225-5789442

## **PLAGIARISM**

### **Department Contacts:**

Dr. Loretta Pecchioni, Professor and Chair [lpecch1@lsu.edu](mailto:lpecch1@lsu.edu)

Any student turning in material not their own will be reported to the Dean of Students and receive an F for the course. Your assignments are considered plagiarized if you do any of: 1. Submit an assignment that was written by someone other than you. 2. Submit ideas or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your references. Rewording sentences does not make work your own. 3. Submit an assignment/speech in which you “cut and paste” or use exact words of a source, do not put words within quotation marks, use in-text citations, or place the source in references. LSU policies, for your reference: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>.

## **DECLARED A MAJOR OR MINOR?**

Communication Studies 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. *The Department of Communication Studies offers 6 Pathways of Study as guidance*

*for students interested in taking CMST courses: Public Discourse, Art and Culture, Professional Communication, Communication in Human Relationships, Visual and Mediated Communication, and Create your Own Pathway.* Info is available at [www.lsu.edu/cmst](http://www.lsu.edu/cmst) or by contacting undergraduate advisor Kent Filbel ([kfilli@lsu.edu](mailto:kfilli@lsu.edu), 135 Coates Hall).

### **LSU SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM**

If you are student who may be interested in debate, public speaking, or acting/performance, then the LSU Speech and Debate Team is perfect for you! Speech and debate is an intercollegiate activity where students debate, interpret literature through oral performance, and write and perform their own persuasive and informative speeches! Membership is open to all LSU students and no prior experience is required. Our students travel to compete at other universities and colleges, produce performances and debates on campus, and curate community workshops. Students who've been affiliated with speech and debate programs find success from the courtroom to Hollywood! If interested contact [jreed2@lsu.edu](mailto:jreed2@lsu.edu) and check out our social media at: [https://www.facebook.com/LSUSpeechDebate/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/LSUSpeechDebate/?ref=br_rs).

### **ORGANIZATION FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

The OCS is for any undergraduate LSU student interested in Communication Studies. Our goal is to create a network of students and faculty united by a shared interest in communication, a desire to better one's self through interpersonal interactions, and a sense of duty to the CMST Department and local LSU Community. Members of OCS will have opportunities to meet with representatives from various businesses and institutions to receive career search tips and learn about areas such as hospitality, customer service, recreation and tourism, sales and marketing, and various entry level trainee programs. OCS members will also participate in department events such as hosting the OCS Fall Kickoff, the Public Speaking Competition, and the annual department Awards Banquet. If interested, email: Dr. Joni M. Butcher, Faculty Advisor [jbutche@lsu.edu](mailto:jbutche@lsu.edu).

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:**

**The course is worth 1000 points. Grading will be as follows:**

**A+ 970-1000**  
**A 930-969**  
**A- 900-929**  
**B+ 870-899**  
**B 830-869**  
**B- 800-829**  
**C+ 770-799**  
**C 730-769**  
**C- 700-729**  
**D+ 670-699**  
**D 630-669**  
**D- 600-629**  
**F 0-599**

Participation: 100 points  
Poetry Workshop: 25 points  
Poetry Performance: 100 points  
Pentad Paper: 100 points  
Prose Workshop: 25 points  
Prose Performance: 100 points  
Compiled Performance Workshop: 50 points  
Compiled Performance: 100 points  
Performance Critiques (2): 100 points  
Homework Assignments: 100 points  
Midterm: 100 points  
Final: 100 points

Descriptions of each of these will be provided and discussed in class.