



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY, DOUGLAS COLLEGE, LANGARA COLLEGE, VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	
COURSE OUTLINE	
TERM: FALL 2013	COURSE NO.: BPAC 404
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE NAME: CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PRACTICES
OFFICE: EMAIL:	SECTION NO.: COURSE CREDITS: 3

COURSE FORMAT: Instructional hours per week: 4 hours per week for 15 weeks.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

MISSION STATEMENT: The cohort-based BPA program will bring together both recent college graduates and established creative artists to create a dynamic mix of students and arts backgrounds. Students will gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed within the performing arts milieu, and a breadth of knowledge that will enable them to think critically: they will examine the historical and cultural context of the performing arts, critique the socio-political and cultural environment of the performing arts industry, and acquire the skills and tools to navigate their way through and build their own careers within this industry. They will also form a production company and develop and mount their own collaborative effort – an original, interdisciplinary performance event. Creating the production will challenge students to explore, master and apply the interdisciplinary performance theory and knowledge they have studied, and enhance their creative and performance abilities.

Graduates will demonstrate competency in various aspects of producing and performing interdisciplinary projects: communication, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, critical self-awareness, problem-solving and decision-making. They will possess the core competencies required to succeed in the highly competitive world and business of the professional performing arts. The program’s unique, creative and practical blend of academic and applied studies will prime students for the multifaceted and entrepreneurial aspects of the world they are entering.

Program Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate competency in the critical aspects of producing and performing interdisciplinary productions which may utilize at least one of the performing arts disciplines: music (vocal, instrumental, electronic), theatre, acting, musical theatre, dance, arts administration, technical theatre or production design.
- Conduct research across the performing arts disciplines, and use results to effectively inform performing arts works.
- Analyze the history and socio-economic, political and cultural context of the performing arts.
- Apply conceptual, administrative and technical skills to diverse performing arts projects.
- Communicate about the performing arts and their own work in oral and written form.
- Present work effectively in group settings.
- Participate in self-assessment and respond productively to critique of work.

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of professional ethics.
- Employ project management skills and apply analytical, quantitative, conceptual and problem-solving skills to the performing arts.
- Conduct research into and make informed decisions about career choices in the world of the performing arts.
- Apply the managerial skills and knowledge of business practices required to work as a self-employed individual or administrator in the performing arts field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

General:

This interdisciplinary course extends the exploration begun in BPA 400. Using several theoretical frameworks students identify and analyze factors that created a new arts climate after the second World War, with an emphasis on what is known as “the performative turn” of the 1960s and its repercussions in the following decades. Students will critically engage with the work of artists from this “postmodern” period, including artists who are currently practising. The course surveys art movements across disciplines with a focus on hybrid or interdisciplinary performance.

Course Student

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Think critically about and discuss the seminal artistic period after World War II that shaped current trends in music, film, video, theatre, dance, writing and visual arts;
- Analyze and critique the practice, theory and history of several disciplines of the performing arts;
- Integrate learning across the performing arts disciplines;
- Present their work effectively in group settings;
- Describe major movements in art from the modernist period;
- Identify key artists and describe their work;
- Express how performing artists manifested modernist concerns in performance;
- Communicate the character of various multi-media/interdisciplinary approaches to making performance in the modernist period;
- Articulate one’s own artistic practice;
- Conduct research, and use and adapt information to specific projects;
- Convey their work in oral, and written form.

REQUIRED TEXT:

NEW:

Pitches, Jonathan and Sita Popat. *Performance Perspectives: a critical introduction*. Palgrave-Macmillan. 2011.

FROM TERM 1:

Huxley, Michael and Noel Witts. *The Twentieth-Century Performance Reader*. 2nd Edition. Routledge. 2002.

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition.

Woods, Tim. *Beginning Postmodernism*. Manchester UP. 2009.

The instructor will assign additional readings during the course.

COURSE CONTENT: In this course we will look at the history, practice, and theory of various post WWII art movements (outlined above) through six specific ‘lenses’: Body, Space, Time, Technology, Interactivity, Organization. These six categories form the basis of the textbook, *Performance Perspectives: a critical introduction*.

WEEK	CONTENT
1 - 3	Body and performance.
4 – 5	Space and performance
6 - 7	Time and performance
8 – 9	Technology and performance
10 – 11	Interactivity and performance (TERM PAPER DUE WEEK 10)
12 – 13	Organization and performance.
14 - 15	Final Exam

EVALUATION PROFILE:

1. A bi-weekly journal (5 entries).....	10%
2. Oral presentation (in partnership with one other student).....	20%
3. Term paper.....	30%
4. Final exam.....	25%
5. Attendance and participation.....	15%

TOTAL.....100%

NOTES ON ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Bi-weekly journal: Unlike the journal assignment in BPAC 400, this one is evaluative. This means the student’s ability to engage with the course materials in their journal will be assessed. Missing journals are docked 2% marks (i.e. if only 4 journals are submitted the maximum mark possible for this assignment is 8%).
2. Oral presentation: This term oral presentations are worth 20%. Presentations teams will be limited to 2 students per presentation. Each student will be expected to participate in one oral presentation with one other student and a schedule to be determined by instructor. This term, greater bibliographic rigour will be required – that is, a more extensive bibliography for the presentation will be needed and more scholarly sources will be required.
3. Term paper: There is only one essay writing assignment this term (but please note that journal and oral presentations are more demanding this term). Write a research essay of 4,000 to 5,000 words on a topic agreed upon by student and instructor. Please note the term paper is worth 30 %.
4. Final Exam: A final exam worth 25 % will be written during the final exam period.
5. Attendance and Participation: The participation mark is worth more this term as in-class exercises based on chapters from the textbook will require greater preparedness for each session.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 0-49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

- University Policies:*** Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.
- Attendance:*** Students are expected to be on time for classes, and to attend all classes and rehearsals. Attendance is essential for successful completion of the course. Students who miss more than 10% of classes will not receive credit for the course. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, even if absent, including announcements and day-to-day assignments.
- Class Participation:*** The grade for class participation is based on both the frequency and the quality of the student's comments, questions and observations, with the emphasis on quality. The quality is determined by, among other things, the relevance, insight and clarity of remarks.
- Missed Exams and Projects:*** Missed exams and project presentations cannot be made up except in the case of serious illness or accident. An official letter from a doctor must accompany any request.
- Late Assignments:*** Late assignments will be reduced half a letter grade (e.g. B+ to B, B- to C+) per day and will not be accepted after 10 days except at the instructor's sole discretion. Normally, late performance and class presentations will not be accepted.
- Cheating/Plagiarism:*** Please see University calendar for policy, and Writing Centre for information on what plagiarism is and how to incorporate source materials into written assignments.
- Incomplete Grades:*** An "I" grade will be given at the discretion of the instructor only if the student has a reasonable chance of completing the required assignments by the date agreed upon as an extension. Normally, performance and class presentations will not be considered for the "I" grade.
- English Usage:*** Students are expected to write clear sentences, organized and developed paragraphs and essays (where assigned), which conform to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Please see the Writing Centre for help with writing questions and problems.
- Professional Behaviour:*** Students are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour towards their work, fellow students and their instructor. Each student should demonstrate reliability, respect for and cooperation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines is necessary in this course. Students should have respect for equipment and systems, and a constructive response to criticism.
- Punctuality:*** Punctuality is essential.

