

PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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The Performance Studies Program provides an opportunity to inhabit an intellectual place where the making of artistic and cultural meaning intersects with critical reflection on those processes. The program has as its primary goal the bringing together of those students and faculty engaged in the creative arts, i.e., studio art, creative writing, dance, film and video, music, and theater with those departments that reflect in part on those activities, e.g., Anthropology and Sociology, Art History, Classics, Comparative Literature, English, History, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Legal Studies, Religion and Theatre. Central concepts and interactions to Performance Studies are: action, the body, presence, ritual, representation, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, politics, history and transcultural experience.

Performance Studies strongly suggests that interested students take the introductory course (LATS 230) and two of several recommended upper-level courses (AFR 305, AFR 400, ARTH 408, ARTH 461, LATS 375, WNY 310, or WNY 311).

Currently, the Program's status is as a program without a concentration. However, students can petition and obtain a Performance Studies Contract Mayor. Students are encouraged to do five things: 1) take the introductory course, which in 2009-10 is (LATS 230) Approaching Performance Studies; 2) take two advanced courses which utilizes critical theory in relation to performance, such as (AFR 305) The Hip-Hop Generation; (LATS 330) The Aesthetics of Resistance; (LATS 375) Performance and Its Traces; (WNY 310) Art, Space and the City; (WNY 311) Imagining New York City; (AFR 400) Race, Gender, Space; (ARTH 408) Contemporary Performance Art History: Space, Time, Action; (ARTH 461) Writing About Bodies; 3) try different artistic media, both in the curriculum and beyond; 4) produce projects that are a combination of art and performance with critical thinking about that process; and 5) prepare a portfolio of their work.

As a senior year project, the Performance Studies Program strongly recommends the assembling of a senior portfolio. Preparation of the portfolio should normally begin in the second semester of the junior year. It will be done under the supervision of a member of the advisory faculty and will be submitted in the spring of the senior year. What we suggest is that portfolios should draw on at least four projects or productions. They should show critical self-reflection on the creative processes, a comparison of the artistic media employed and also demonstrate performance criticism on the work of others.

Performance Studies Interdepartmental Elective Courses

ARTH 361/INTR 361/WGSS 361 Writing about Bodies

JAPN 276/COMP 278 Premodern Japanese Literature and Performance

THEA 104/COMP 104 Critical Approaches to Theatre and Performance

THEA 204 Acting II

THEA 236 Political Theatre Making

THEA 250/ENGL 253/WGSS 250/COMP 247 Gender, Sexuality and the Modern Stage