

CMST 3040 Performance Composition

Spring 2018 Section 1

MWF 1030-1120

Coates 137

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Course Description. CMST 3040 is an intermediate-level performance studies course designed to build on the knowledge of analyzing and performing literature you acquired in CMST 2040 and to prepare you for more advanced coursework in performance studies and related areas. The course provides you with opportunities to develop skills in reading, writing, analyzing, and performing a broad range of texts and to become better acquainted with how texts and performances are composed.

Course Objectives. This course should help you write and direct for performance with a focus on aesthetics. The course will ask you write, memorize, and direct performance material. You will learn concepts for performance, some of which you may find more effective than others, but all are important as we analyze performance as text. You will relate these performances to various areas of your life, while also expanding the boundaries of how one appreciates, critiques, and produces performance work.

Course Texts. Any readings we have will be posted on Moodle. You should always bring a copy, either printed or digital, to class along with a few notes and questions so you'll be prepared for discussion.

Assignments. There will be three performances, two papers, and a handful of workgroup activities. Each assignment will have its own sheet posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class. I'll offer a brief overview here, first.

1. Performances: You'll have two compiled performances asking you to merge two or more texts together. These two performances will serve as building blocks for our final performance, which is a mystery. Mystery is a blending of the personal, popular, and professional, and this performance should be at least ten minutes long.
2. Papers: You'll need to see two shows in the HopKins Black Box Theater this semester and write 2-3 page responses.
3. Workgroups: You'll be forming groups of 3-4 in order to form a closer support system for working on performances. Each group will create an accountability system, and each group member will write short reflections on their process.

Grading. Final grades will be determined based on scores earned on these assignments. All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact. The class assignments will be calculated as follows:

Personal Pop Performance 100pts
Pop Profresh Performance 150pts
Mystory Performance 200pts

Writing Exercises 50pts
Workshop 100pts
Participation 100pts

Black Box Response 1 25pts
Black Box Response 2 25pts

Grade Scale:

A+ 100-98	D+ 69-67
A 97-93	D 66-63
A- 92-90	D- 62-60
B+ 89-87	F 59-0
B 86-83	

Workgroup Formation 25pts
Accountability Contract 25pts
Workgroup Activities 100pts
Workgroup Reflection 1 50pts
Workgroup Reflection 2 50pts

Participation and Attendance. Participation refers to how prepared you are to engage in classroom activities; it requires that you do your readings and that you come to class prepared to discuss the assignment. Any in-class activities fall into this category. It should be easy to earn these points. Because of the nature of this class, attendance is required. You'll be making performances and providing feedback to others. This means that in order to get points, you must be present. It's pretty simple.

Classroom Behavior. This classroom is our space. We will be kind and respect each other. That leaves no room for racist, sexist, heterosexist, or discriminatory language of any kind. It is important to remember we are here to learn from each other, and in order to do so, we need to be open to new concepts and different ways of being than we may be used to. This might also mean that when giving a performance on sensitive subject, you'll want to be intentional and careful in the choices you make. And as audiences to performances you may or may not agree with, you'll want to be open-minded in audiencing what your classmates have to share.

Late Work. I really dislike late work, so please be in class or talk to me about needing an extension. If you miss an in-class activity for an excused absence, you can make it up for full credit the next class period. If you miss work for any other reason, talk to me, and we'll work out something, probably a reduction of some points. Either way, if you miss an assignment and take more than two class periods to request to make it up, you will be unable to. If you miss a performance day, you will not be able to make it up the next class period. You will need to contact me to schedule a new performance time, outside of class and with a reduction of points. Late written work will be docked a letter grade per class period late.

Cell Phones and Technology. We will decide these rules as a community. Laptops can be used to take notes as easily as they can be used to surf the web. Cell phones can also serve as distraction or a resource. I want us to decide together what appropriate usage is. I'll post the guidelines we agree upon on Moodle. Speaking of Moodle, the course site will have all the documents for the semester. I will keep it updated with copies of the assignments and rubrics. Please check it frequently.

Communication. You can reach me at csamsp7@lsu.edu any time. It is the most effective way to contact me. I tend to respond between 9-6 on weekdays and when I can on the weekend. I will do my best to be prompt and useful in my responses. I expect you to check your email regularly in case there are updates about the class. I will be using the emailing system in Moodle to contact y'all (not the Moodle messaging system which is different and not very useful). I recommend y'all do the same should you need to contact other class members. That said, if you email the class via Moodle, please remember to remove me from the list of recipients. I don't need to read y'all's pleas for missing notes or whatnot.

Inclement Weather. Unless the University is closed, we will have class. This means even if there is a midmorning monsoon, we will be meeting. I hate rain as much as the next Wicked Witch of the West, but we simply don't have the wiggle room in the schedule to miss days because of rain.

Available Help. I cannot stress this enough: if you are having trouble in the class, talk to me. I want to help you. If you aren't having trouble but have questions, come see me. I want to help you. It bears repeating. Let me know as soon as something comes up. The sooner I'm aware of an issue, the more likely I am to be able to help. There are also several resources available on campus. [Communication across the Curriculum \(CxC\)](#) offers writing support that can assist you in the development of your essays. The [Shell Tutorial Center](#) housed in Middleton Library also offers services that can help. And of course, there are counseling services available through the [Student Health Center](#) that are great for helping you process any of the things going on in your life. School is only one part of your life, so please take care of you.

Academic Honesty. Plagiarism is a complicated issue. We will discuss plagiarism (what it is, how to avoid it) as a class. You can read the [LSU policies](#) on plagiarism to better understand how the school feels about it. In short, any time you present other people's work as your own without properly citing the source, you're committing plagiarism. With proper citation any of these issues can be avoided. In performance plagiarism is slightly more complex but still possible so be sure to always cite.

ADA Accommodations. The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states: "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 can be arranged." After you receive the accommodation letter, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

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. Sex discrimination and sexual misconduct violate an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. LSU considers sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in all of its forms to be serious offenses. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy establishes a mechanism for determining when rights have been violated in employment, student life, campus support services, LSU programs and/or an academic environment.

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