Intro to Performance Art
A UNST199 Chiron Studies course

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Tuesdays 5:30pm – 9:10pm
Office hours: By appointment

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Course Description:
Explore the last 100 years of performance art through viewings, readings, discussions and reflections. Learn from local live artists about their work and knowledge. Examine the roles of performance in important movements such as Futurism and Dadaism. Combine theory and practice by creating contemporary performance works and dynamic documentation including photographs, videos, promotional posters, and more. No previous experience in required.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:
- Students will gain analytical and critical skills specific to performance art by examining, writing about, and creating live works using contemporary art criticism, documentation and history as resources.
- Students will learn curatorial and leadership skills by collaborating to present a program of performance art.
- Students will develop professional skills by collectively developing an online forum for sharing new research and writings.

Pedagogical Philosophy:
I encourage students to question what they are reading and learning, to truly engage in class discussions and to bring new knowledge to the forefront. It’s important for students and instructor(s) to work collectively in choosing what’s important to discuss and study. I believe in community, sharing knowledge, creating a positive space open to new possibilities and collaborations.

Community Connection:
There will be several visits from established Portland artists. Students will also have opportunities to participate in a public art events sponsored by Time Arts Club, either as an organizer, performer, or documentarian.

Required Reading:
Performance Art: From Futurism to Present by Rosalee Roseburg

The Artists Body by Amelia Jones
Academic Honesty:

Please familiarize yourself with the PSU’s policy regarding academic dishonesty: [http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct#AcademicDishonesty](http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct#AcademicDishonesty) Misrepresenting the work of others as your own could lead to the failure of assignment(s).

Disability Access Information:

If you require accommodations (e.g. special seating, interpreter, note-taker, etc.), please inform your instructor immediately. Students with disabilities should register with the PSU Disability Resource Center (503-725-4150, TTY or Relay 503-725-4178, SMSU 116, www.drc.pdx.edu) to document their needs for accommodations and obtain support services. I will work with you to arrange the supports you need in this class.

Assignments:

Students will be required to submit short, weekly, reflective writings by email, minimum 300 words in length. These will help students develop their midterm project, final project and final presentations. Each reflection is worth 3% of the student’s final grade (a total of 30% combined). The topic is open to what the student is curious about. Some suggestions are to write about a piece of performance art you read about in the class texts, what are the cultural significances? Why is this performance important? You can also write about performances you discovered, watched online, or viewed live in person.

As a mid-term project, students will be required to develop an original performance art piece with clear intentions and cultural significance. This can be a true, live performance but since performance art can vary students will be challenged to develop other ways to share their pieces whether it be through ephemera, video documentation, or within an experimental lecture. Emphasis will be based on the quality of exploration processes the student takes, the clearness of the intent of the project, and the uniqueness of presentation. Students also have the option of writing a ten-page research paper, double-spaced, instead of a performance; a presentation is required in either case. The mid-term project is worth 20% of the final grade.

The class will culminate with a final presentation and project. Students will be required to do one of the following: further develop their mid-term pieces with documentation of the piece and a final presentation to class; create a new piece with documentation of the piece and a final presentation to class; develop a new research paper (a minimum of ten pages, double-spaced) using reflective writing responses and additional research, present to class. The final research project and presentation is worth 30% of the final grade.

It is important for students to support their peers, and to access every possible avenue for personal discover and exploration. This is why it’s valuable that students attend. 20% of the final class will be based on attendance taken first thing in class (3 tardies of 30 min or more count as one absence).
Grading/Evaluation Methods:

Students will be graded on fulfilling reflective writing requirements, attendance, original art as well as presentations of their final project.

- 10 weekly reflective writing assignments (300 words each) using class texts and/or individual research: %30
- Attendance: 20%
- Mid-term Performance: 20%
- Final Project and Presentation: 30%

Course Calendar:

Note: Much like any form of contemporary art, the landscape of performance art is constantly evolving. This is why it will be important to examine brand new forms of art and criticism that students are passionate about, as well as connecting with guest artists and. The following assignments and readings will reflect a cultural landscape that is currently being defined.

Tuesday, 4/7/15: Introductions.
- Reflective Writing Assignment One (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: Forward from Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present & The Artist’ Body.

Tuesday, 4/14/15: The Beginnings of Performance Art.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Two (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 4/21/15: Happenings, Constructivism, Midterm Project Discussion.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Three (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 4/27/15: Dada-ism, Time-Based Art Festival
- Visit from Performance Artist, TBA
- Reflective Writing Assignment Four (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 5/4/15: History of Surrealism and Midterm Project Presentations.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Five (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Midterm Project Presentation, Group 1.
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.
Tuesday 5/12/15: Bauhaus explained.
- Visiting Performance Artist TBA.
- Midterm Project Presentations Group 2.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Six (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 5/19/15: The Power and Significance of Live Art: The Early Years. Due
- Reflective Writing Assignment Seven (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 5/26/15: Art of Ideas
- Visit from Performance Artist TBA.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Eight (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday 6/2/15: The Media Generation and Final Presentation Group 1.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Nine (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.

Tuesday, 6/9/15: Contemporary Live Art and Final Presentation Group 2.
- Reflective Writing Assignment Ten (Sunday, 3pm, by email)
- Required Reading: We will choose as a class what to examine in the texts.
- Potluck!