

Course Title : Performance Arts in Modern Times

Course Code : CLA9008

No. of Credits/Term : 3

Mode of Tuition : Lecture, Tutorial, Workshop

Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week

Category in Core Curriculum : Cluster Course: Category “Creativity & Innovation”
Study Year: 1 & 2 (proposed to be a foundation course)
General Education: Category C

Prerequisite(s) : None

Co-requisite(s) : None

Exclusion(s); : None

Brief Course Description : Performance arts are an important site for understanding human creativity and artistic expressions in modern urban life. This course leads students to learn how to understand performance arts as creative activity and how to appreciate different performance forms, styles, aesthetics, artists and interactive experiences from around the world. Using a global approach and embracing that performance arts are superb extensions of human sensibilities and ultimate expressive means of creativity, the course introduces students to three major areas of live performance arts: music, theatre and dance, plus the performance practice called digital performance (where computer technologies and techniques have been integrated into live productions). While focusing on today’s performance productions as signifying practices, the syllabus addresses issues of traditional performance forms and intangible cultural heritage in relation to modernity, and distinguishes between the art of performance and popular culture in terms of the aesthetics of structure and form. This course will ideally be offered in the second semester to make use of the Hong Kong Arts Festival’s distinguished programmes (opening in February every year) as dynamic examples of contemporary live performance arts.

Aims : 1. To foster students’ basic knowledge and understanding of

Learning Outcomes	<p>performance arts as creative and imaginative expressions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To enable students to develop an artistic sensibility to appreciate performance arts and their dynamics of creativity in a social environment dominated by commercial popular culture. 3. To train students' basic skills in analyzing and discussing performance arts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will acquire an elementary understanding of the creative nature and imaginative characteristics of the performance forms of music, theater and dance, as well as digital performance. 2. Students will be able to identify artistic activities of performance and distinguishes them from commercial entertainment in terms of artistic creativity, expressive imagination and dynamic originality. 3. Students will be able to generally analyze and discuss the aesthetic, cultural, and social issues related to performance arts and the modern times, including the question of preserving and recreating intangible cultural heritage.
Indicative Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nature and characteristics of the performance forms of music, theatre and dance. 2. Case studies of important figures and groups in performance arts (e.g. Yo-yo Ma, Pina Bausch, Zuni Icosahedron, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, etc.). 3. Traditional performance forms in modern performance (e.g. Chinese opera, Japanese noh and kabuki, Thai dance, etc.). 4. The creative use of computer technologies in performance (i.e. digital performance incorporating a silicon chip) and the significant performative consequences of this tool.
Teaching Method	<p>Lecture, student's class presentation and tutorial discussion Workshop</p> <p>: Performance and rehearsal attendance Backstage visit Meet-the-artist</p>
Measurement of Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written tests to measure students' knowledge of the performance arts of music, theatre and dance, and digital performance. (LO1,2) 2. (i) Live performative presentation, tutorial discussion will require students to talk about performance arts in a creative and dynamic manner. (ii) Written tests, term project will serve as

assessments of students' ability to identify and appreciate the artistic characteristics of performance arts. (LO1,2)

3. Term project, multimedia presentation will test students' general ability to analyze and discuss related performance arts issues such as aesthetics, creative imagination, and the preservation and reinvention of intangible cultural heritage. (LO1,3)

Continuous Assessment 100%

Assessment

: One term project 30%

Two written tests 30%

One short piece of art criticism 10%

Participation in class discussion, multimedia presentation or live performative presentation 30%

Required Readings

Cohen, Robert. *Theatre*. 7th Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2006.

Cook, Nicholas. *Music: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Nadel, Myron Howard and Marc Raymond Strauss. *The Dance Experience: Insights into History, Culture & Creativity*. Highstown, N.J. : Princeton Book Co., 2003.

Recommended Readings

Bial, Henry. *The Performance Studies Reader*. London: Routledge, 2004.

Davis, Stephen. *Musical Works and Performances: A Philosophical Exploration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

DeNora, Tia. *Music in Everyday Life*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Lysloff, René T.A. and Leslie C. Gay, Jr. Eds. *Music and Technoculture*. Middletown Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 2003.

Madison, D. Soyini and Judith Hamera. Eds. *The SAGE handbook of Performance Studies*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2006.

Martin, John. *The Intercultural Performance Handbook*. London: Routledge, 2004.

Reynolds, Nancy and Malcolm McCormick. *No Fixed Points: Dance in the Twentieth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

Small, Christopher. *Musicking: The Meanings of Performing and Listening*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1998.

Thomas, Helen. Ed. *Dance, Gender and Culture*. London: Macmillan, 1994.

---. Ed. *Dance in the City*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

4. To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on 3 Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.