

Course Title	: Introduction to Performance Cultures
Course Code	: CUS3359
Recommended Study Year	: 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Curriculum	: BA CUS Programme elective, Required course for Performance Studies Minor
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s);	: None
Brief Course Description	: Introducing students to both the specific concepts and the broadly conceived notions of “performance” in the arts and social life, this course examines performance studies from its intellectual roots of theatre and anthropology through the fundamental concepts such as play, ritual, and performativity to the critical analysis of the act of performing, performance processes, global and intercultural performances. The multi-disciplinary nature of performance studies lets students adopt cross-cultural perspectives on rituals, games, drama, dance and music, as well as “performance” in everyday life, and to give them practical experience of how one builds up a public identity through performance.
Aims	: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To introduce students to the basic notions of “performance” in the perspective of contemporary performance studies.</li> <li>2. To cultivate students’ knowledge of play, ritual, performativity, performing arts, performance art.</li> <li>3. To develop students’ analytical and critical skills in discussing performing, performance processes, global and intercultural performances.</li> </ol>

Learning Outcomes : 1. Students will be able to describe “performance studies” and other related basic concepts.  
2. Students will be able to discuss the various meanings of play, ritual, performativity, performing arts, and performance art.  
3. Students will be able to critically analyze acts of performing in artistic creation and social life, and intercultural performance in different scenarios of globalization.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes : 1. Short written assignments and quizzes to measure students’ knowledge of the basic notions of performance studies. [LO1]  
2. Presentation and group discussion to test students’ capability in examining the meanings of keys concepts such as ritual, play, performativity. [LO2, LO1]  
3. Term paper/term project to measure students’ analytical ability to engage in formal discussion of artistic performance and social performance in cross-cultural, global contexts. [LO3, LO2]

Indicative Content : 1. What is performance studies and performance?  
2. Ritual  
3. Play  
4. Performance processes  
5. Performativity  
6. Performance art and performing arts  
7. Inter-cultural and global performances

Teaching Method : A combination of (i) lecture, (ii) tutorial discussion, (iii) student presentation, (iv) in-class and/or out-of-classroom performance acts.

Assessment : 100% Continuous Assessment  
*Short written assignments 20%*  
*Quizzes 20%*  
*Presentation 30%*  
*Term paper/project 30%*

### Required Readings

Bial, Henry, ed. *The Performance Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2007.  
Schechner, Richard. *Performance Studies: An Introduction*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Routledge, 2013.

### Recommended Readings

- Causey, Matthew, and Fintan Walsh, eds. *Performance, Identity, and the Neo-Political Subject*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Counsell, Colin, and Laurie Wolf, eds. *Performance Analysis: An Introductory Coursebook*. New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Fischer-Lichte, Erika, and Benjamin Wihstutz. *Performance and the Politics of Space: Theater and Topology*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Gluhovic, Milija. *Performing European Memories: Trauma, Ethics, Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- Loxley, James. *Performativity*. New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Madison, Soyini, and Judith Hamera, eds. *The SAGE Book of Performance Studies*. Thousand Oaks, Sage, 2006.
- Parker, Andrew, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, eds. *Performativity and Performance*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

### 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 Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.