



CMST 310 • Performance of Literature

Department of Communication Studies Fall 2016
Room: P 2804 Course ID: 006414
Dates & Times: Thursdays, 6:00—9:45pm Section: 60

Instructor: Dr. Justin J. Rudnick	
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Office Hours: Schedule a meeting at https://justinrudnick.youcanbook.me/	
Monday & Wednesday: 3:00—5:30pm (Skype / Phone only)	
Tuesday & Thursday: 3:00—5:30pm (Skype / Phone / In-Person)	
<i>*I am also available by appointment. Please email me to set up a meeting.</i>	

Required Texts:

There are no required textbooks for this class. All necessary readings will be made available on the Desire-2-Learn (D2L) system (<https://mnsu.ims.mnscu.edu/>). You are welcome to bring these readings to class in whatever format you prefer (electronic or printed), but you are expected to have them when you arrive for their assigned class session. Assignments, exams, and performances will draw extensively on the class readings.

Course Description and Objectives:

In CMST 310, we will explore the art and practice of performing literature. We will approach our studies with the assumption that performance is a method of understanding and enjoying literature as an expression of profound human experience. Along the way, we will encounter different texts—including classic prose and contemporary poetry—and numerous performance techniques including solo and group performances.

Your successful completion of this course will fulfill the following learning objectives:

1. Recognize the use of performance skills in everyday life;
2. Demonstrate effective performance skills;
3. Analyze and critique literary texts and performances of those texts;
4. Construct and communicate compelling aesthetic performances.

General Education Information:

MNSU stipulates requirements in General Education, and CMST 310 fulfills Goal Area 6 and Goal Area 11. In keeping with these requirements, successful completion of this course will ensure that you meet the following General Education outcomes:

Goal Area 6: Humanities and the Arts

- a) Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities;
- b) Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context;
- c) Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities;
- d) Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance;
- e) Articulate an informed personal reaction to work in the arts and humanities.

Goal Area 11: Performance and Participation

- a) Participate effectively in a variety of artistic, education, political, recreational, health and public service, or social service settings;
- b) Interact with others of another culture in its indigenous setting through a structured experience;
- c) Participate cooperatively in a group athletic activity or artistic performance.

Nondiscrimination and Classroom Etiquette:

We live in a multicultural world that is diverse, distinct, evolving, and complex. This class will likely involve discussions and performances about literature addressing a number of issues, some of them controversial. I hope we will all be mindful of each other regarding these issues and how they might easily relate to our identities. I also expect us to conduct ourselves with the utmost civility with each other as mature and educated adults. My hope is that you will come to appreciate a diverse range of literature and performance techniques regardless of whether you agree with them or not. In this class we will encounter diverse ideas that will make us more aware, empathetic, and open to the difference and similarities we share. As an instructor, I will work to facilitate an amiable environment where ideas and thoughts can flow freely, creatively, and comfortably. As students, I hope you will enter our class with a similar commitment. As a final note, all MNSU nondiscrimination policies will be upheld and enforced in our class.

Accessibility and Academic Accommodations:

Minnesota State University, Mankato provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, and/or services. Students with documented disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with Accessibility Resources (Memorial Library 132, ph: 507-389-2825, TDD 711, or email Julie.Snow@mnsu.edu) to establish an accommodation plan and then contact me as soon as possible. Through our Partnership Center, MSU, Mankato will cooperate with Normandale Community College to set up any accommodations you need to succeed in this class. I will gladly incorporate any accommodations you might need in order to successfully complete this course.

Attendance Policy:

CMST 310 is a performance-based class in that you cultivate a mastery of the course material by actively putting it into practice. As such, regular attendance and participation is required. I will take attendance every day and keep track of your meaningful participation in class discussions. You have the opportunity to miss one (1) class session without question. Missing more than one session—which constitutes an entire week of material—will result in your final semester grade being lowered by one letter. Absences are *excused* if they are for *documented university-sponsored travel* or *dire personal emergencies*. It is your responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation if you feel your absence falls under the category of “excused.” I understand that we lead busy lives and we all might need some wiggle room from time to time, so I reserve the right to amend this policy if circumstances justify doing so. Please note that it is your responsibility to make up any work you miss as a result of missing class. Any student missing more than 1/3 of the semester’s class sessions should withdraw and re-take the course in another term, as you will not be awarded a passing grade in the class.

Work Policies:

As a general rule, I do not accept work if it is turned in late. In the event that I make an exception, any late work will be subjected to a *10% grade deduction per calendar day*. I will not accept ANY late work a week after the due date. You should also note that, because of the constraints of meeting only once per week, there is no guarantee you will be able to make up oral presentations if you miss your assigned date.

I also have stylistic expectations for all written work in this class. Any written work, unless specified otherwise, should comply with the following expectations:

- Written work should be typed and double-spaced;
- Use a serif font (either Times New Roman or Cambria);
- Margins should be 1" all around;
- Assignments more than one page should be stapled together;
- Assignments more than one page should include a cover page with your name and the course number;
- Anything written by someone else and used in your assignment should be cited in-text and included in a reference section according to the American Psychological Association (APA) style guide, 6th edition.

If the above requirements are not met, I will return the work to you—ungraded—and you will have the ability to make corrections, subjected to the late work penalty.

Rigor and Academic Honesty:

In keeping with MNSU's Academic Honesty policy, all work that engages in such inappropriate activities as plagiarism, cheating, or collusion will be subjected to the appropriate academic sanctions. These sanctions may include anything ranging from re-doing the assignment to receiving an automatic failing grade in the course. For more information on your rights and responsibilities as they relate to academic honesty, consult the university's policy at <https://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/academichonesty.pdf>.

Course Assignments and Grades:

The following grading scale will be used in this course:

	A = 100%—93%	A- = 92.9%—90%
B+ = 89.9%—87%	B = 86.9%—83%	B- = 82.9%—80%
C+ = 79.9%—77%	C = 76.9%—73%	C- = 72.9%—70%
D+ = 69.9%—67%	D = 66.9%—63%	D- = 62.9%—60%
	F = 59.9%—0%	

In this class, grades are not assigned. They are earned. Some students seem to have the misconception that simply doing an assignment results in an "A." Failure to follow directions or meet criteria will result in you earning fewer points. Also, simply doing an assignment does not guarantee a passing grade regardless of perceived "effort." Please note the definition of each letter grade:

"A" is reserved for work that is exceptional;

"B" is reserved for work that is above average;

- “C” is reserved for work that is average (meets criteria);
- “D” is reserved for work that is below average;
- “F” is reserved for work that is failing, late, or not submitted for evaluation.

The following assignments will be completed by each student in the class. You can determine your percentage (and grade) by totaling the points you have accumulated and dividing those points by the number of points possible.

<u>Assessment:</u>	<u>Points Earned / Points Possible</u>
1. Children’s Literature	
Performance	_____ / 40
Analysis	_____ / 15
2. Solo Poetry	
Performance	_____ / 40
Analysis	_____ / 15
3. 3 rd Person Narrative	
Performance	_____ / 60
Analysis	_____ / 15
4. Group Poetry	
Performance	_____ / 35
Analysis	_____ / 15
5. Personal Narrative	
Written Narrative	_____ / 25
Performance	_____ / 50
6. Critiques (5 @ 10 pts each)	_____ / 50
7. Midterm Exam	_____ / 50
8. Class Participation*	_____ / 50
 TOTAL	 _____ / 460

**Note: Your participation grade is based on attendance and quality of classroom contributions. Your contributions will be evaluated based on (1) evidence you have read and analyzed the assigned readings, (2) your ability to contribute productively in a classroom discussion, and (3) your evaluations of others’ performances.*

A note about final grades: At the conclusion of the course, I will assign letter grades based on the above percentage scale. As indicated by the scale, I will round grades up to the nearest tenth decimal (0.x). I will not round beyond this, so do not ask me to.

Tentative Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at my discretion. I will attempt to give you fair warning and make reasonable accommodations if I need to adjust the schedule.

Week	Day	Topic	Assignment
1	Thurs 8/25	Introduction to Oral Interpretation <i>Assign: Children's Literature Performance</i>	Read: Gura & Lee, Ch. 1
2	Thurs 9/1	Analyzing Performance Texts	Due: Children's Lit Selection Read: Gura & Lee, Ch. 2
3	Thurs 9/8	Children's Literature Performances	
4	Thurs 9/15	Performing Poetry <i>Assign: Solo Poetry Performance</i>	Read: Gura & Lee, Ch. 9
5	Thurs 9/22	Working with the Body and Voice Workshop: Solo Poetry	Due: Solo Poetry Selection Due: Solo Poetry Analysis Read: Pelias & Shaffer, Ch. 6
6	Thurs 9/29	Solo Poetry Performances Performing Prose <i>Assign: 3rd Person Performance</i>	Read: Gura & Lee, Ch. 6
7	Thurs 10/6	Writing Performance Texts <i>Assign: Personal Narrative Performance</i>	Read: Harris & Holman Jones, Ch. 2
8	Thurs 10/13	Emotion and Empathy Workshop: 3 rd Person	Due: 3rd Person Script Due: 3rd Person Analysis Read: Pelias & Shaffer, Ch. 7
9	Thurs 10/20	3rd Person Performances <i>Assign: Group Poetry Performance</i>	
10	Thurs 10/27	Ethics and Performance Exchange Personal Narratives	Due: Personal Narrative Script Read: Madison, Ch. 4 Read: Conquergood
11	Thurs 11/3	Evaluating Performances Watch Examples of Personal Narratives	Due: Group Poetry Selection Due: Group Poetry Analysis Read: Pelias & Shaffer, Ch. 12
12	Thurs 11/10	Dr. J is at NCA: Work on your performances!	
13	Thurs 11/17	Group Poetry Performances Workshop: Personal Narrative	Due: Personal Narrative Cutting
14	Thurs 11/24	No Class—Thanksgiving Break!	
15	Thurs 12/1	Personal Narrative Performances Exam Review	
F	Thurs 12/8	Final Exam	