**\*Exported from Canvas\***

Comm 2060 Syllabus

Meet Your Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Holley Vaughn (she/her/hers)

Office: GAB 320 F

Office Hours:

Wednesday 11-12:30 in GAB 320f & on Zoom https://unt.zoom.us/j/5575888314

Thursday 11-12:30 on Zoom https://unt.zoom.us/j/5575888314

Email: holley.vaughn@unt.edu \*\*\* Please email me and your TA directly from your MYUNT email account. Canvas' messaging function is not as reliable as it should be. \*\*\*

Questions & Email Protocol:

We are happy to assist you with any questions you have but, given the large number of students both your TA and I have across our various classes, we need you to be conscientious of several things before you email us:

1) First and foremost, please... Please...for the love of god, PLEASE, double check the Syllabus & Canvas before emailing us about general course/assignment questions. We have put a TON of time into making the Syllabus & Canvas as detailed and comprehensive as possible for you.

2) Please email me and your TA directly from your MYUNT email account. Canvas' messaging function is not as reliable as it should be.

3) Be sure you are emailing the appropriate person. Your TA handles all of your grading and attendance. If you are going to miss class or if you have a question about a grade, then you should email your TA. If you have a general question about the course, then you should email Dr. Vaughn.

4) Use a descriptive subject line that includes your course section. We receive a ton of emails and a descriptive subject line that includes the course section helps us identify student inquiries more efficiently

5) We will respond to your email within 48 hours on weekdays. Please do not expect a response over the weekend.

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Course Description & Objectives

Course Description

Play media comment.

COMM 2060 is an introductory level Communication Studies course designed to familiarize students with the discipline of Performance Studies as well as the study of literature through performance. The primary goal of this course is to facilitate critical thinking about performance and, reciprocally, to use the doing of performance itself as a method of critical inquiry. The discipline of Performance Studies broadly employs the notion of performance as both a method and a metaphor for understanding human behavior. You do not need any formal acting training, “talent”, or theater experience to be successful in this class. To the contrary, this course is predicated on the assumption that we are all already performers. It is my sincere belief that learning to critically interpret and perform different types of literary texts teaches us a great deal about our own lives and the lives of others.

Course Objectives:

Discover how performance is integral to our everyday lives,

Investigate how aesthetic communication shapes and is shaped by culture

Analyze and perform someone else’s story

Analyze and perform poetry

Study the historical avant-garde

Create performance art

University Core Objectives:

sharpen oral & written communication skills

develop critical thinking skills

enhance teamwork abilities

create an awareness of social & civic responsibility

Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, in order to be successful in this course you will need to:

Be willing to take risks and try something new!

Craft thorough and thoughtful written responses that are edited for style and content .

Memorize the content of you major performances well in advance of your final performance.

Cite sources, giving credit to where you obtain information.

Make the commitment to spend at least 3-4 hours per week outside of class for reading assignments, reflecting on the material covered, practicing your performances, and participating in other activities throughout the course.

Required Text

Pelias, Ronald and Tracy Stevenson Shaffer. Performance Studies: The Interpretation of Aesthetic Texts 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2007.

Recommended Text

Masters, Edgar Lee. Spoon River Anthology: An Annotated Edition. Urbana and Chicago: U of Illinois Press, 1992.

Link to FREE online Version of Spoon River: https://www.bartleby.com/84/ (Links to an external site.)

Class Format: Meeting Times & Locations

This course is taught in a lecture/recitation format. Lecture is when all 100 students in the course meet with me, the professor, in GAB 104. Your recitation sections are functionally breakout groups where you work with your TA to complete the major assignments in the course. Some days you will be in the lecture classroom and some days you will be in your recitation classroom. The schedule on the next Canvas page lays out exactly which days you will meet with me in the lecture classroom and the days you will meet with your TA/Adjunct in your recitation classroom.

Recitation Sections & TA:

Recitation Section 201: TA- Mollie Gibbins (she/her), meets in GAB 321

Recitation Section 202: TA- Trevor Holcombe (he/him), meets in GAB 406

Recitation Section 203: TA- Taylor Watt (she/her), meets in GAB 114

Recitation Section 204: TA- Alyx Dickson (they/them), meets in GAB 112

Overview of the Course

Unit 1: Stories, Everyday Life Performance, & Radical Empathy

In Unit 1 we will look at how we live our lives in literary and performative ways. We will address how aesthetic communication and performance is central to our daily lives. We will learn about how we are all already performers and discover how performance is part and parcel of being human. Specifically, we will examine the many roles we play in our everyday lives and investigate how stories and storytelling are at the heart of our intersecting identities and cultures. The major performance assignment in the unit is an Everyday Life Performance in which you will perform one of your classmates stories. The application assignment for this unit requires you to explore the notion of radical empathy through Anna Deveare Smith's performance, Notes from the Field. For the analysis portion of this unit, you will create a detailed transcript for your the performance, as well as a reflection & evaluation paper at the end of the unit.

Unit 2: Performing Poetry

In Unit 2 we will turn our attention to a specific form of aesthetic communication- poetry. We will explore a variety of poetic conventions, investigate how poetry operates in the world, learn how to analyze poetry through the process of dramatic analysis, and perform poetry. Your major performance for this unit is a live performance of poetry. You will select & memorize a poem from the Comm 2060 Poetry Packet or Spoon River Anthology. You will complete a written analysis of your poem and embody that analysis in a workshop with your TA and your classmates prior to your final performance. The application assignment for this unit invites you to explore how poetry has operated throughout different eras of US history. You will also write up a self/peer reflection & evaluation essay over the final performances.

Tips for Success

Class Reading & Outlines:

It is vital to your success in this course to keep up with weekly readings in the Pelias & Shaffer textbook. You should anticipate pop quizzes over the readings in class as part of your participation grade.

In addition to reading chapters in the Pelias and Shaffer textbook, you are strongly encouraged to complete a handwritten, formal, detailed outline of the chapter before we discuss it in class. The practice of outlining your readings before class by hand ensures that you are prepared for our class discussions, prepares you for pop quizzes, and provides you with an organized review sheet for your application, analysis, and reflection assignments at the end of each unit. Trust me, taking the time to outline the chapter readings in advance, saves you a ton of time latter. In order to incentivize the good practice of outlining your readings before class, I will offer you up to 5 points of extra credit per assigned chapter. In order to be eligible for these points, you must take a picture of your handwritten, formal, detailed outline and upload it to Canvas before class begins. Please see this page for examples of good & bad outlines:Outlines

Workshops:

Workshops are designed to help you! Think of workshops as a practice round prior to your final performance. Your enthusiastic participation in each workshop is vital to completing a successful final performance. Come to the workshop meeting with an open mind, a willingness to play with your own ideas, and to experiment with your TA/classmates’ suggestions.

During your workshop, you will perform your poem for your TA and your group members. You must be completely memorized AND make at least three choices regarding staging. You need to demonstrate that you have rehearsed this performance several times prior to your workshop. After you perform, you will receive feedback from your TA & your peers.

Application Assignments:

Instead of "traditional" exams, you will complete 3 application assignments over the course of the semester (1 per Unit). Application assignments are designed for you to see how the concepts we are exploring in class operate in the world, to see how different artists or public figures utilize aesthetic communication in their work, to enhance your critical thinking acumen, and to hone your oral communication skills. You will submit your application assignments orally via a video or class presentation as is specified in the prompt. These assignments will take some time so please plan accordingly. Application assignments are worth a substantial amount of points so please do not put them off until the last minute. I expect it will take you several hours to look through the material in each prompt, review relevant course concepts, and formulate your ideas. After you have taken the time to process & plan, you should construct a loose outline that will guide you as you speak. Your response should have some sort of introduction, a preview statement that lists the main points you want to cover, a thorough & thoughtful discussion of the questions you are given, and a conclusion. I anticipate that your responses will be roughly 7-8 minutes in length or longer if you have more to say. The maximum amount of time is 14 minutes.

Grading Summary:

Your grade is based on a 1000 point scale that breaks down as follows:

Unit 1 Overview: Stories, Empathy, and Everyday Life Performance

265 Points in Unit

(26.5% of your overall grade)

Two Stories Post 10 points

Ch1. Probe 1 10 points

Everyday Life Performance Application Assignment: Tales from the Field 75 points

Transcription 20 points

Everyday Life Performance 100 points

Unit 1 Reflection & Evaluation 50 points

Unit 2: Poetry Unit Overview

310 Points in Unit

(31% of your overall grade)

Poetry in the World: Application Assignment 75 points

Poetry Selection 5 points

Poetry Memorization Video 5 points

Poetry Analysis 50 points

Poetry Workshop 25 points

Poetry Performance 100 points

Unit 2 Reflection & Evaluation 50 points

Unit 3: Performance Art Overview

275 Points in Unit

(27.5% of your overall grade)

Mandatory Meeting Minutes 1

5 points

Mandatory Meeting Minutes 2

5 points

Mandatory Meeting Minutes 3

5 points

Mandatory Meeting Minutes 4 5 points

Mandatory Meeting Minutes 5 5 points

Team Teach: Application Assignment 75 points

Performance Art Workshop 25 points

Performance Art Performance 100 points

Unit 3 Reflection & Evaluation 50 points

Participation

150 Points Total

(15% of your overall Grade)

Daily Participation 150 points

Grading Scale

In order to ensure fairness and avoid grade inflation, we use the following guidelines for assessment:

A: 90-100%- Excellent, demonstrably outstanding work. The student demonstrates mastery of the material. The work submitted is significantly distinguished above the work of their peers. The student performs well above the minimum criteria for the assignment in a creative, innovative, and academically rigorous way.

B: 80-89%- Good, impressive work. The student demonstrates mastery the material. The student performs above the minimum criteria for the assignment in an insightful and thoughtful way.

C: 70-79%- Solid, college-level work. A grade of C indicates that the student has met the minimum requirements for the assignment.

D: 60-69%- Below average work. The student has not demonstrated mastery of the material and/or fails to meet minimum criteria of the assignment

F: 59% and below- Failing grade. Sub-par work. The student has not demonstrated mastery of the material, fails to meet two or more of minimum criteria of the assignment, and/or does not complete the assignment.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Your mere enrollment in this course does not entitle you to an A.

A’s are reserved for exceptional work. We reserve A’s for those papers and performances that we would rather watch/read than eat chocolate or drink beer.

Completing the minimum criteria on a major assignment represents average, satisfactory, C level work.

It is imperative that you pay close attention to due dates, assignment descriptions, and grading rubrics for all assignments and performance projects. Willful ignorance or haphazard attention to all of the information provided to you on Canvas does not "magically" preclude you from the grading criteria. It is your responsibility to thoroughly read through each unit overview, each assignment description, and pay close attention to each due date. It is your responsibility to seek clarification regarding grading criteria, due dates, or course concepts you may be struggling with well before an assignment is due. This is college. It is supposed to be challenging. It is supposed to stretch your thinking. You are a fully grown adult who signed up for this. We expect you to handle yourself accordingly.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 48 hours before contacting us to dispute a grade. Within that time, we expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email your TA to set up a meeting (we cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to your scheduled meeting with specific examples that provide concrete evidence for the argument that you earned a higher grade than you received based on the grading criteria of the assignment. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact us to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Extra Credit

You may earn up to 50 TOTAL extra credit points in the course. I provide numerous extra credit opportunities throughout the semester and I offer a variety of ways for you to achieve those points. The 50 possible points you can earn through extra is a surefire way to move your grade in the course up a letter grade (i.e. from a C to a B or from a B to an A). In short, if you are on the cusp of a letter grade shift, the extra credit opportunities allow you to increase your total grade in the class by 5%. No final average will be rounded up unless the student has completed all possible 50 extra credit points.

Policy on Incomplete

Per UNT policy, an “Incomplete” will be award only in cases where 75% of the coursework has been completed AND the grade is warranted by a legitimate, well-documented, excuse (e.g., medical, military). Inability to complete coursework in a timely fashion does not constitute an acceptable reason for requesting or receiving an incomplete. To request an incomplete please set up a meeting with me prior to finals week.

Attendance & Participation: 15% of your overall grade (150 points)

Learning is a social process. In order for this class to be successful, both your attendance and participation are imperative. This class is constructed in a way that is similar to a seminar- in that, both students and instructors perform the roles of teachers and learners simultaneously. In other words, we are constantly learning from each other. This is only possible if everyone shows up, prepares in advance, and fully participates in class.

I expect you to give thoughtful attention to the assigned readings, assume a constructive role in class discussions, ask questions, engage the ideas of others, and share your own insights. You will have a participation assignment, which may include a pop quiz from the assigned reading, every time you are in class. Your success in this course is contingent on successful performances, quizzes, workshops, papers, video responses, AS WELL AS your productive participation as an audience member for your classmates’ performances.

Make no mistake- I expect you to attend class. I interpret excessive absences as willful and wanton disrespect towards our class community. If you choose not to attend class then your grade will be adversely affected.

Attendance & participation points can only be earned by attending the entire class period & completing the in class assignment for that day. If you miss class for any reason, then you do not earn the points. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class, then you cannot earn the points. If you leave class early, then you cannot earn the points. The only way to make up the points for missing class is by doing extra credit assignments.

Course Policies

Late Work

You will have a 24 hour grace period for assignments that are submitted through Canvas. After the 24 hour grace period has expired, we will accept assignments for another 24 hours but you will only receive, at maximum, half credit. For example, if an 100 point assignment is due by 11:59 PM on Friday and you need some extra time, then you can turn in that assignment by 11:59 PM on Saturday with no penalty. But if you turned in the assignment on Sunday, then the maximum number of points you could earn on the assignment is 50 points. All work turned in after 48 hours of the due date will receive a grade of zero. Please note that this only applies to assignments submitted through Canvas and does NOT apply to any in class assignments such as workshops or performances.

Academic Conduct

This is a communication course, which means you are required to communicate. I expect you show up prepared and participate in class discussions. I do not shy away from controversial topics in class and neither should you. Remember, the primary goal of this course is to facilitate critical thinking about performance and through performance; therefore, I expect and encourage rigorous debate. Feel free to make robust arguments, but you must respect your classmates. Ideas can be debated, but people may not be defamed. Overtly racist, sexist, homophobic, and transphobic comments will not be tolerated. At all. Ever. If you choose to engage in hateful or violent discourse, you will be asked to leave class immediately and I will follow the proper procedures for reprimand according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Consent Policy

Anything you to do someone’s body OR the image of someone’s voice/body, requires explicit, enthusiastic, affirmative, consent. If you would like to record any lecture or recitation content, you must receive permission from both the instructor AND the folks who might be filmed, prior to class. Under no circumstances are you allowed to post ANYTHING that goes on during class online without the explicit consent of both the instructor and the folks being filmed. Failure to adhere to this policy will be interpreted as a violation of privacy rights and will be dealt with in accordance to the legal directives of UNT policy.

Don’t Do Dumb Stuff in Class Policy

Do not brandish weapons of ANY kind in class!!!! Do not bring any drugs, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia to class!!! Do not bring live animals (or recently ceased to be alive animals) to class!!!!

Phone Policy

Turn off your cell phone prior to class. Do not futz around on your phone during class- it is incredibly rude. You are expected to put your phones away during class- not on your desk, not in your lap, but completely out of sight. If you have some sort of emergency or legitimate reason to have your phone out during class, then let me and your TA know prior to the beginning of class, and we will happily accommodate you. We monitor the room for cell phone use during class. If you are messing around on your phone out during class, then you will loose participation points.

Moreover, a cell phone ringing or vibrating during someone’s performance is a major distraction for both the performer and the audience. Such interruptions are, at best, disrespectful of others and, at worst, undermine your classmate’s performance. You are responsible for turning off your phone every time you come to lecture and recitation. If your phone dings during a classmate’s performance, then your performance will be marked down one letter grade.

Laptop and Tablet Policy

Laptops and Tablets may only be opened during class if you have ODA accommodation or at the behest of the instructor. You may not take notes on your laptop or tablet during lecture.

Note Taking

Taking good notes by hand is crucial for your success in this course, and your college career more generally. There is an entire body of research that consistently indicates the strong correlation between content retention and hand written notes. During lecture/recitation you are required to take notes by hand (see laptop/tablet/phone policy). We understand that many of you were probably never taught how to take notes and may be seriously intimidated by this requirement. That is totally okay. This is an opportunity to learn and hone your note taking skills. The following link will walk you through several types of note taking systems. We encourage you to try out each method and find what works best for you!

Note Taking Systems Overview (Links to an external site.)

The cognitive science of taking notes by hand is fascinating. We encourage you to check out the the following articles:

A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop (Links to an external site.) - article from Scientific American

Here's Why Writing Things Out by Hand Makes You Smarter (Links to an external site.) - article from Business Insider

Performance Policy

I expect you to be present and prepared to perform on days designated in the schedule. If you cannot perform on the day assigned due to a University Authorized Absence (an absence that has been authorized by the Dean of Students), then you will be afforded an opportunity reschedule prior to the scheduled presentation. Your TA will accommodate you at their earliest convenience. You will be permitted only one opportunity for a make up. If you have an unauthorized absence on a day when you are scheduled for a presentation, a workshop, or a performance, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment

Plagiarism and Cheating

One fundamental goal of achieving a university degree is betterment of self; upon obtaining your degree, you should be a more skilled writer and a more analytical thinker. To accomplish this goal and realize your true potential, all work should be uniquely your own in both word and thought. You should document all words and ideas belonging to others according to APA or MLA guidelines. Otherwise, you will not only fail yourself, but the course as well. All students must adhere to the Code of Student Conduct regarding academic dishonesty, including acts of cheating and plagiarism. Please check out the following website for definitions of plagiarism, cheating, and FAQ’s regarding plagiarism.

http://plagiarism.org/ (Links to an external site.)

Depending on the severity of the infraction, punishments for cheating or plagiarism range from a grade of ZERO points on the assignment in question, to failure of the course or expulsion.

Writing Guide

You will be doing a significant amount of writing in this course for major assignments.

For writing assistance on major papers, we recommend utilizing the following UNT resources:

Writing Guide for Students in Communication Studies (Links to an external site.)

UNT Writing Center (Links to an external site.)

UNT Policies

ADA Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an

accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (Links to an external site.). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Copyright Notice

Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection. Materials may include, but are not limited to: documents, slides, images, audio, and video. Materials in Canvas are only for the use of students enrolled in this course, for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained for longer than the class term. Unauthorized retention, duplication, distribution, or modification of copyrighted materials is strictly prohibited by law. For more information, visit the UNT Policy Office (Links to an external site.) or Copyright.gov (Links to an external site.).

(Links to an external site.)Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

Academic Integrity

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct (Links to an external site.). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The Dean of Students Office (Links to an external site.) enforces the Code of Student Conduct (Links to an external site.). The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and the sanctions that can be assigned. When students may have violated the Code they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship

violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Visit Title IX Student Information (Links to an external site.) for more resources.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert (Links to an external site.) to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please

refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Academic Support & Student Services

Technology Support:

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk (Links to an external site.)that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues:

Phone: 940-565-2324

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Current list of Student Help Desk hours (Links to an external site.)

For additional support, visit this Canvas Technical Help (Links to an external site.)web page.

Undocumented Students:

Please see UNT'S Resources for DACA Students (Links to an external site.) web page for more information.

Academic Support Services

The UNT Academic Resource Center (Links to an external site.), which provides links to the bookstore, registration and advising information, tuition information, financial aid, and more.

The UNT Academic Success Center (Links to an external site.), which offers academic support services and free individual tutoring.

UNT Writing Lab (Links to an external site.)

UNT MathLab (Links to an external site.)

Student Services

Multicultural Center (Links to an external site.)

Counseling and Testing Services (Links to an external site.)

Student Affairs Care Team (Links to an external site.)

Student Health and Wellness Center (Links to an external site.)

Pride Alliance (Links to an external site.)

Student Legal Services (Links to an external site.)

UNT Food Pantry

Important Academic Dates

Registration Guides by Semester (Links to an external site.)

Online Academic Calendar (Links to an external site.)

Final Exam Schedule