**Marshall University**

**Syllabus**

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| Course Title/Number  | **CMM 330 Performance Theory** |
| Semester/Year | Spring 2013 |
| Days/Time | MW 2:00 – 3:15 |
| Location | SH 263 |
| Instructor | Danny Ray |
| Office | SH 270 |
| Phone | 304-696-5293 |
| E-Mail | ray102@marshall.edu |
| Office/Hours |  |
| University Policies | By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy be going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802> Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment  |

**Course Description: From Catalog**

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| This course will focus on the study of performance practices that function as enactments of cultural identity. General topics will include performance as a cultural process, performance in social roles, and performance as power. The subject matter will draw upon historical and contemporary art forms, public rituals and celebrations, ethnographic studies, and film/video documentaries. |

The table below shows the following relationships: How each student learning outcomes will be practiced and assessed in the course.

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| **Course Student Learning Outcomes**  | **How students will practice each outcome in this Course** | **How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this Course** |
| Students will develop an informed understanding of performance theory and the way it plays out in our culture and cultures that differ from our own | Assigned readingsGroup discussionsFilm and video clipsGuest lecturers / performances | Reflection papersArticle summariesPerformance experienceExamsPerformance analysis |
| Students will improve skills in the interpretive analysis of cultural texts. | Assigned readingsGroup discussionsFilm and video clipsGuest lecturers / performances | Reflection papersArticle summariesPerformance experienceExamsPerformance analysis |
| Students will develop awareness and understanding of beliefs, rituals, and performance practices of everyday life which differ from mainstream middle-class America. | Assigned readingsGroup discussionsFilm and video clipsGuest lecturers / performances | Reflection papersArticle summariesPerformance experienceExamsPerformance analysis |

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| **MC Studies Content Requirements** | **How does the course content address the MC content requirements? Name and briefly describe, for example, readings, lectures, videos, interactions, discussions.** | **How do instructors assess the MC content requirements? Name and briefly describe, for example, evaluation standards for exams, papers, projects, presentations.** |
| * Students explain and examine multiple cultures other than their own.
* Students evaluate their own culture by recognizing, distinguishing, comparing, and assessing other cultures.
 | Theories of performance reflect the cumulative knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, and meanings of a culture. In this course, students will identify, examine, and evaluate theories of performance and use their knowledge of those theories to understand and evaluate various elements of their own culture in part by comparing and contrasting their own culture with other cultures through an examination of cultural rituals, celebrations and art forms. This will be achieved through class discussions on assigned readings, written assignments such as article summaries and reflection papers that deal specifically with cultural differences and a performance of an intercultural text that guide students’ reflection on the similarities and differences across cultures. One discussion will center on a film about social drama and how it affected change by increased awareness of cultural differences. | Students will demonstrate awareness of intercultural differences and increases in knowledge, comprehension, and ability to apply and analyze cultural differences through a group performance of a text based on some ritual or celebration of a culture other than their own. |

**Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials**

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| 1. Bell, E. (2008). *Theories of performance.* Los Angeles: SAGE Publications. 2. Turner, V. (1982). *From ritual to theatre: The human seriousness of play.* New York: PAJ Publications3. Selected readings which will posted on MU Blackboard Learning System |

**Course Requirements / Due Dates**

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| 1. Article Summary / Week 32. Reflection Essay / Week 53. Midterm Exam / Week 84. Article Summary / Week 95. Reflection Essay / Week 116. Performance Project / Week 147. Final Paper / Week 168. Final Exam / Week 17 |

**Grading Policy**

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| A = 90 – 100% 765 – 850B = 80 – 89% 680 – 764C = 70 – 79% 595 – 679D = 60 – 69% 510 – 594F = 59% or lower 0 – 509 |

**Attendance Policy**

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| Roll will be taken every day and you are expected to be in class and on time. If you have any unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from attending then it is your responsibility to inform me *ahead of time* if at all possible. Tardiness will not be tolerated. A student is considered tardy if they enter the classroom after roll has been taken. Every two tardies will count towards an unexcused absence.  |

**Class Participation and Punctuality:**

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| In order to meet the objectives of the course, you will need to arrive at each class on time, having completed the assigned reading and writing and prepared yourself to participate intelligently in the discussion. Please arrive fully prepared to make presentations or submit accompanying documents when you are scheduled. Participation also includes providing grounded, actionable feedback to classmates following their presentations. In order for you to demonstrate the skills necessary for this course, you will be required to participate in group activities. The performance project will require outside rehearsals with every member of your group. There will be an addition of 50 points for participation added to your total points accumulated for the semester. Failure to participate in class or in group projects with the completed assignments on time will result in the deduction of points from this category.  |

**Make-up Work**

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| It is expected that you will turn in all work by the due date. If for some unforeseen reason you need extra time then ask. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis. Exams and speeches/ presentations must be taken / delivered on the date that they are scheduled. Only a University Excused Absence will be considered in order for these items to be made up. Any assignments turned in late will be cut the amount of points equal to one letter grade, per class late. (Since we meet every other day tardiness will only count on class days). No email copies of assignments will be accepted unless a prior arrangement has been made and accepted by me.  |

**Course Schedule**

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| Week | Date | Readings | Assignment |
| Week 1 | January 14 | Chapter 1 - Bell | Introduction to course |
| January 16 | Group discussion |
| Week 2 | January 21 | *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*  | *No Class* |
| January 23 | Chapter 2 – Bell Introduction - Turner | Group discussion |
| Week 3 | January 28 | Chapter 3 - Bell | 1st article summaries |
| January 30 | Group discussion |
| Week 4 | February 4 | Chapter 4 – Bell | Group discussion |
| February 6 |
| Week 5 | February 11 | Chapter 5 – Bell | 1st reflection essays |
| February 13 | Group discussion |
| Week 6 | February 18 | Social Drama -Turner | To Kill a Mockingbird |
| February 20 | To Kill a Mockingbird Group discussion |
| Week 7 | February 25 | Chapter 6 – Bell | Group discussion |
| February 27 |
| Week 8 | March 4 | Midterm Exam | Midterm Review |
| March 6 | Midterm Exam |
| Week 9 | March 11 | Dramatic Ritual – Turner | 2nd Article Summaries / Guest performance |
| March 13 |
| Week 10 | March 18 | *Spring Break*  | Group discussion |
|  | March 20 |
| Week 11 | March 25 | Chapter 7 – Bell | 2nd reflection essays |
| March 27 | Group discussion |
| Week 12 | April 1 | Chapter 8 – Bell | Group discussion |
| April 3 |
| Week 13 | April 8 | Chapter 9 – Bell | Group discussion |
| April 10 | Everyday Life – Turner |
| Week 14 | April 15 |  | Performances |
| April 17 | Chapter 10 - Bell | Group discussion |
| Week 15 | April 22 | *NFA Nationals no class* |  |
| April 24 | Chapter 10 - Bell | Group discussion |
| Week 16 | April 29 | Individual meetings |  |
| Week 17 | May 3 | Final Exam Review |  |
| Week 18 | May 6 | Final Exam | Final Exam 12:45 – 2:45 PM |

**Course Assessments**

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| **Assignment** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Reflection and Analysis Essay (2) | 4-5 pages; double spaced using APA style formatting which reflects one or more concepts from the required readings.#1 - Choose any episode of any reality television series.#2 Select a film that portrays some aspect of a culture different than your own. | 100 each |
| Article Summary (2) | Choose an article from the selected readings that are posted on Blackboard and write a 500 word summary which reflects the main concepts of the chosen article. | 50 each |
| Performance Experience | With prior instructor approval, form a group; select an appropriate text which demonstrates a social or cultural ritual or theatrical representation of an appropriate subject. The goal is to experience the complex process of living language and to enact it as true to the intended context. This project must include a printed performance plan, 2-3 pages, describing the specific purpose of your performance. Each member of the performance group will be required to provide feedback on the productivity of the group and participation of each of the group’s members. 1/3 of the project’s grade will be based on each individual’s participation. | 150  |
| Performance Analysis | A careful analysis of an appropriate nature to the course of some ethnographic study or performance based text. It should include a literature review of current trends in performance theory and a criticism of the chosen work. | 150 |
| Exams | There will be two exams, one mid-term, and one final which will include short answer, matching, multiple choice questions which will cover the assigned readings from the two required texts and any articles that were included in the assigned reading. The final exam will be comprehensive. | 100 each |
| Class Preparation and Participation | Careful reading of assigned texts and supplemental articles, and active participation in class discussion and exercises. “Active participation” means expressing your ideas and opinions, respecting the ideas and opinions of others, arriving on time and staying through the class. | 50 |