

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 1040 -01	Course Title: Introduction to Performance	Date of Offering: F21
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: Lecture and discussion
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

The question before us is this: why theatre? Is theatre still relevant in the digital age, and if so what good is it? Using Peter Brook's four categories of theatre as a starting point for analysis, we will examine deadly theatre, rough theatre, holy theatre and immediate theatre, always with an eye to the difference between drama, live performance and disembodied performance (i.e. digital apps and film). We will let Jordan Tannahill define deadly theatre for us, and then apply McLuhan's theories and Auslander's ruthless critique of liveness to the present day state of performance. Is live performance relevant anymore, and in the age of recurring pandemics, is it even possible? Jauss's reception theory is one approach to what will challenge us in any medium (or what might not). We will then attempt an understanding of holy theatre and ritual through Schechner, Greek Tragedy, Shakespeare, Artaud, Fornes, and Amiri Baraka. What is ritual, and what is its relationship to theatre, and to the internet today? With Brecht, Boal and absurdism we explore rough theatre. Finally, we will try and discover what if anything can be immediate about live performance in this digital world, through Adorno, Diana Taylor, and Cage.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

5% — Paper to introduce yourself

24% — 4 performance analysis papers

36% — 6 log entries

20% — Final essay

15%— Participation

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
See above: all sources will be available online.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

\*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.