

Performance Analysis

T D 387D
Unique # 25180
Fall 2004

T 3:30-6:30
WIN 2.136

Dr. Ann Daly

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4
(sign up on office door
for an appointment)

This course is a theoretically-based, skills-oriented seminar for graduate students who want to hone their observational and analytical skills. We will approach performance (broadly defined) as a text that may or may not include a script.

TEXTS:

The required reading packet is available at the University Co-Op.
Sally Harrison-Pepper. Drawing a Circle in the Square (Mississippi, 1990).

GRADING:

In order to earn a final grade of "B," you must submit the three required projects at a satisfactory level. In order to earn a final grade of "A," you must submit one additional paper. If any paper is unsatisfactory, you may rewrite it for credit. "Satisfactory" means the best work you are capable of generating.

This syllabus is subject to change.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

August 31: INTRODUCTION

September 7: THEORY, METHOD, ANALYSIS

Ann Daly. "Dance History and Feminist Theory: Reconsidering Isadora Duncan and the Male Gaze."

Peter Jelavich. "Method? What Method? Confessions of a Failed Structuralist."

Sally Ann Ness. "Dancing in the Field: Notes from Memory."

Umberto Eco. "Semiotics of Theatrical Performance."

September 14: LABAN MOVEMENT ANALYSIS

Martha Davis. "Effort-Shape Analysis of Movement."

Martha Davis. "Movement as Patterns of Process."

Handout: "Basic Parameters of Movement," in Beyond Words, by Carol-Lynne Moore and Kaoru Yamamoto, pp. 181-205.

In-class video: "Beyond Words" (FAL videocass 1952)

September 21: STRUCTURING OBSERVATION & ANALYSIS

Handout: "Observation in Practice: Process and Structure," in Beyond Words, by Carol-Lynne Moore and Kaoru Yamamoto, pp. 207-241.

In-class video: Robert Wilson's Deafman Glance

September 28: CASE STUDIES: BALANCHINE & CONTACT IMPROV

Ann Daly. "The Balanchine Woman: Of Hummingbirds and Channel Swimmers."

Cynthia J. Novack. "Contact Improvisation."

Before class, view: "Magnesium" (FAL videocass 2476) and "Fall After Newton" (FAL videocass 2475, on reserve. In-library use only)

In-class video: The Four Temperaments third theme (FAL videocass 577)

DUE: Movement analysis project

October 5: LABAN MOVEMENT ANALYSIS & POLITICS

Martha Davis and Dianne Dulicai. "Hitler's Movement Signature."

Judy Burns and Matthew Brookoff: "Body Politics: Image Management in the Presidential Campaign."

In-class video: "Triumph of the Will" excerpt

In-class video: footage of Bush and Kerry

October 12: SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Doris Humphrey. The Art of Making Dances, 49-96.

Handout: Colin M. Turnbull. "Processional Ritual Among the Mbuti Pygmies."

Handout: John Cook. "The Observation Man."

Handout: Richard Schechner. "Space," in Environmental Theater.

Handout: Article on Balanchine's Serenade.

October 19: CASE STUDY: TROBRIAND CRICKET

Sally Ann Ness. "Understanding Cultural Performance: Trobriand Cricket."

Before class, view "Trobriand Cricket" (on reserve at FAL. In-library use only)

October 26: STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

Martha Ann Davis and Claire Schmais. "An Analysis of the Style and Composition of 'Water Study.'"

Michael Kirby. "Structural Analysis/Structural Theory."

In-class film: Water Study

DUE: Spatial analysis project

November 2: CASE STUDY: DEAFMAN GLANCE

In-class video: Robert Wilson's Deafman Glance

November 9: CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Albert E. Scheflen. How Behavior Means.

November 16: THICK DESCRIPTION

Clifford Geertz. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight."

Clifford Geertz. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture."

DUE: Structural analysis project

November 23: CASE STUDY: WASHINGTON SQUARE

Sally Harrison-Pepper. Drawing a Circle in the Square (Mississippi, 1990).

November 30: COURSE WRAP-UP

Course Instructor Survey

DUE: Thick description project (optional; required for final grade of "A")