DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES

https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/performancestudies

Interim Head: Steven Oberhelman
Graduate Advisor: Leonardo Cardoso

The Master’s in Performance Studies at Texas A&M University is built around a multifaceted understanding of performance. Using a wide range of qualitative methods and theoretical frameworks (from dramaturgical analysis to ethnography and phenomenology), our graduate faculty has expertise in the study of religion and spirituality; theater, media and technology; popular music; state affairs; law; diplomacy; martial arts; urbanism; dance; race; ethnicity; gender, and sexuality. They have conducted research in the US, Ghana, Brazil, Japan, Trinidad, and Spain. The unique perspective each of our faculty brings is what makes our MA distinctive when compared to similar programs in the country.

Our two-year graduate program offers a true mix of scholarship and practice: besides learning and discussing ideas from a close reading of texts, students have room to explore other modes of knowledge transmission, such as concerts and exhibitions.

We keep our graduate classes small to give each student ample opportunity to engage more deeply with the course materials in class discussions. Our students often come from all parts of the world (the US, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Ghana, Nigeria, South Korea, to name a few), which stimulates cross-cultural debates in our seminars.

Students can choose between the thesis and the non-thesis track. The thesis track requires the submission of a 40-60-page monograph. It is recommended for students who want to focus on their writing skills. The non-thesis track includes different combinations of written and non-written components (from a thesis-like format to a performance-centered project). This track is recommended for students interested in designing plays, concerts, installations, exhibitions, short films, websites, and similar projects. In both tracks, students develop their research projects with the guidance of an advisor.

In addition to class projects, students have the opportunity to participate in our Colloquium Series (https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/performancestudies/academic/prospective-m-a-students/colloquium-series/) and in the various events organized by the Glasscock Center (https://calendar.tamu.edu/glasscockcenter/view/month/).

Our MA prepares students to pursue a broad range of career paths, particularly in cultural institutions (such as museums), intercultural industries (such as tourism), and in the media/communication sector (music production, for instance). Our recent graduates have found jobs as project coordinators at organizations such as Texas Folklife (https://texasfolklife.org/), Safe Space (http://www.safespaceonline.org/), EMERGE Fellowship (https://www.emergefellowship.org/), PBK (https://www.pbk.com/), Hands on Nashville (https://www.hon.org/?fbclid=IwAR0Hi7575DJkKnMt0Dx96a8pHNDoezPWB3-WB9J2f0S0P6s7eOWy6M), the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Center (http://www.dovzhenkocentre.org/eng/about/) Others have used the skills learned in the program to embark on an artist-scholar career.

Students interested in continuing their academic training have been admitted to highly competitive Ph.D programs around the country (Indiana University, Northwestern University, University of California, Davis, among others).

Faculty

Ball III, James R, Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, New York University, 2012

Cardoso De Cardoso, Leonardo, Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Texas at Austin, 2013
MMA, University of Texas at Austin, 2010

Dexter, Rayna M, Instructional Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
MFA, Kent State University, 2009

Donkor, David A, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, Northwestern University, 2008

Dox, Donnalee, Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 1995

Garaiazzo, Mariana S, Instructional Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Texas, 2005

Kattari, Kimberly A, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Texas at Austin, 2011
MMA, University of Texas at Austin, 2005

Liewen, Peter E, Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of California at Santa Barbara, 1984

Morris, Jeffrey M, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of North Texas, 2007

Regan, Martin P, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, 2006

Spalink, Angenette Marie, Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, Bowling Green State University, 2014

Wilborn, David F, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PHD, University of Texas, 1994

Masters

- Master of Arts in Performance Studies (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/performance-studies/ma/)

Hands on Nashville (https://www.hon.org/?fbclid=IwAR0Hi7575DJkKnMt0Dx96a8pHNDoezPWB3-WB9J2f0S0P6s7eOWy6M), the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Center (http://www.dovzhenkocentre.org/eng/about/) Others have used the skills learned in the program to embark on an artist-scholar career.