DEPARTMENT OF
PERFORMANCE STUDIES

In the Department of Performance Studies at Texas A&M University, students use performance to understand and change the world. Performance Studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines relationships between performance and culture. We study music, theatre, and dance from around the world as modes of artistic expression, but we also consider the performative aspects of film and TV, podcasts, tourist attractions, religious services, public ceremonies, sports and games, rituals and festivals, dress and costuming, political debates, social media, and more. We explore how performance is part of our everyday lives; it is the way people express themselves, their identities, their experiences, and their values. Performance Studies is a research discipline in which performance is at once the object we research, a frame we use to see the world, and a set of creative practices we use to reflect on the human experience.

Our programs provide flexible approaches to the study and practice of performance. The Department’s faculty works on varied performances in diverse and global cultural contexts. We bring our expertise to bear on the study of music and sound, theater, performance art, dance and movement, gender and sexuality, religion and spirituality, race and ethnicity, technology and mass media, politics, and folkloric traditions.

Students in the Department study performance theory, performance analysis, and performance making. Because Performance Studies combines theory and practice, our courses offer opportunities for both scholarly research and artistic design and performance. Through performance, students engage creatively with the world around them. In their coursework, students develop a perspective on cultural performance practices that crosses genres and geography; the ability to think independently, work collaboratively, and solve problems creatively; and a commitment to the performing arts as meaningful and socially engaged practice.

Performance Studies provides a foundation for careers that combine skills and knowledge gained in the study, practice, and critical analysis of performance. In the 21st century, this describes many paths a Performance Studies graduate may take. In the Department of Performance Studies our goal is to make scholars and artists with a keen sense of how to use performance to advance their goals, solve problems, and engage with diverse communities. To this end, we train our students to be creative leaders in whatever field they choose. A background in Performance Studies provides an unparalleled foundation for those looking to make their way as artists and performers; for those seeking careers in business, public service, law, medicine, advocacy, journalism, and so on; and for those who plan to continue on to graduate study in the humanities.

Faculty
Adinku, Grace, Lecturer
Performance Studies
PhD, Kwame Nkrumah University, 2013

Ball III, James R, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, New York University, 2012

Cardoso De Cardoso, Leonardo, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2013
MMU, The 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

Gariazzo, Mariana S, Instructional Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2005

Humphrey, Daniel, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, University of Rochester, 2006

Imhoff, Andrea G, Instructional Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
MA, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 1992

Kattari, Kimberly A, Associate Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2011
MMU, The University of Texas at Austin, 2005

LaFever, Cory, Lecturer
Performance Studies
PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 2018
MMU, University of Texas at Austin, 2012

Miller, Cain, Lecturer
Performance Studies
MA, Southern Methodist University, 2019

Moench, Michael, Lecturer
Performance Studies
MMU, University of Texas at Austin, 2013

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

O’Rear, Jesse, Assistant Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, University of Texas, 2020

Quackenbush Ammons, Anne E, Lecturer
Performance Studies
MA, University of Houston, 2010

Regan, Martin P, Professor
Performance Studies
PhD, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, 2006
SIMMS, MICHELLE, Lecturer
Performance Studies
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2011
MFA, Regent University, 2015

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

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

Majors
• Bachelor of Arts in Performance Studies (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/performance-studies/performancestudies-ba/)
• Bachelor of Arts in Performance Studies and Master of Arts in Performance Studies, 5-Year Degree Program (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/performance-studies/ba-ma-perf/)

Minors
• Film Studies Minor (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/performance-studies/film-studies-minor/)
• Performance Studies Minor (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/performance-studies/minor/)

Certificates
• Performing Social Activism Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/performance-studies/performing-social-activism-certificate/)