

## Why Performance Studies?

Performance Studies is an exciting and growing field that equips students with critical tools to analyze not only what happens on stage, but also the performances of everyday life—from courtroom rituals and celebrity culture to social media personas and protest movements. Our upper-division Performance Studies courses (TDPS 114/119/120/125/126) offer students a chance to explore global and interdisciplinary approaches to questions of embodiment, representation, affect, space, media, and identity. These courses draw on knowledge systems from around the world and encourage students to think through complex real-world issues using diverse methods and theories. Students learn to think critically about how performance shapes and reflects society, while gaining skills in facilitation, design, collaboration, and cultural analysis. Whether studying performance as political intervention, historical memory, or aesthetic expression, these courses help prepare students for futures in cultural work, communications, education, and art-making. Topics vary by professor and may include “Queer Theory,” “Staging California,” and “The History of Celebrity.”

## Theater 119 | Performance Theory

An examination of a theoretical topic or perspective on performance, with specific attention to the interface between theoretical endeavor and dramatic, nondramatic, and nontheatrical modes of performance; may involve visiting artists. Topics vary from semester to semester. Examples of past topics include: Performance & Law, Theories of Embodiment, Performing Under Fire, Queer Performance Theory, Performing Diversity

## Theater 121 | Performance and Culture

An examination of performance as an aspect of cultural production, ranging from everyday-life enactment to more formal or aesthetic activities associated with “artistic” production; may involve visiting artists. Specific attention to the methods of ethnography, cultural studies, and intercultural performance analysis. Topics vary from semester to semester. Examples of topics include: Contemporary Theater & Performance in the Americas, Screendance, Modernist Expressions in Early 20th Century Ballet & Modern Dance, Resistance to Imperialism in Theater of the Americas

## Theater 125 | Performance and History

An examination of the historical conditions of performance, either given in a historical period or comparatively, with specific attention to the relationship between methods of historical studies and performance; may involve visiting artists. Topics vary from semester to semester. Examples of past topics include: Intersectional Perspectives on Contemporary Dance in Israel, History of Celebrity, Activism and the Archives from 1492-1992, Performance & Environmental Justice

## Theater 126 | Performance Literatures

An examination of the formal, ideological, and cultural dynamics of drama, with specific attention to the relationship between methods of literary studies and performance; may involve visiting artists. Topics vary from semester to semester. Examples of past topics include: Acts of Adaptation-Making Plays from non-Theatrical Texts, California Stories: Tourism, Labor, Theater in the Golden State, Performance & Revolutions, Post/De/Anti-Colonial Plays & Performances