COURSE SYLLABUS

(Mis)performing World Politics

Instructor:
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Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations
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Winter 2019
MA 4 Credits (8 ECTS Credits), 2018-19

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Course description:
This course develops a 'performance' lens of contemporary issues of world politics at the intersections of critical theory, performance studies, art-based research and critical pedagogy. It looks at how familiar notions are performed and acted out in everyday practices and situations – such as statehood, sovereignty, identity, gender or labour under global capitalism – and the ways in which roles, scripts and modes of staging generate structures of recognizability and corresponding subject positions. Expectations, rituals and routines, however, simultaneously give rise to misperformances that carry the potential for encounters that are incidental, spontaneous and yet-unknown. The course brings together philosophy, case studies, artistic interventions and offers practical exercises in reflecting on and transforming our normalized and habitual practices of sense-making.

Course Requirements

Active participation in seminars: 10%
Seminar presentation: 20%
Position paper: 20%
Term paper: 50%

COURSE SCHEDULE

* while the main themes are most likely to stay the same, please note that the readings are subject to revision*

Week 1: POLITICS AS AESTHETICS

Seminar 1. Generative Grammars


Seminar 2. Becoming a spectator

Rancière, Jacques (2011) The Emancipated Spectator, Chapter TBC

Week 2: PERFORMATIVITY AND (MIS)PERFORMANCE

Seminar 3: Gendered scripts


Seminar 4. Queer orientations and failures


Halberstam, Judith (2011) The Queer Art of Failure, Duke University Press,

Week 3: STATEHOOD

Seminar 5. Foreign Policy


Seminar 6. Sovereignty


Week 4: CULTURES OF WAR
Seminar 7. The Politics of Culture


Sylvester, Christine, Art/Museums: International Relations Where We Least Expect It (Paradigm, 2009). Chapters TBC


Seminar 8. Tourism

Lisle, Debbie (2016) Holidays in the Danger Zone, University of Minnesota Press, Chapter TBC

Week 5: DEMOCRACY & CITIZENSHIP

Seminar 9. Democratic Sensibilities and Rituals


Seminar 10. Performing Citizenship


Week 6: CASE STUDY #1

Seminar 11. & Seminar 12.


Week 7: PEOPLE & ORDER

Seminar 13. Presences and Absences


**Seminar 14. Street art**


**Week 8: LABOUR**

**Seminar 15. Work & Leisure**


**Seminar 16. Affective labour**


**Week 9. PROTEST**

**Seminar 17 TBC**

**Seminar 18 Sites of Struggle**

Week 10. CASE STUDY #2

Seminar 19 & 20 The Occupy Movement

Week 11. EDUCATION

Seminar 21: Acts of Ignorance

Seminar 22: Life in the Neoliberal University
Harney, Stefano and Fred Moten (2013) The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study, New York: Compositions


Week 12: (Re)inventing Peace

Seminar 23 Seeing

Seminar 24 Knowing

Berg, Maggie and Barbara Seeber (2016) The Slow Professor: Challenging the Culture of Speed in the Academy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.