

Foundations of Drama II Notes

Owen M. Sheehan
Professor Dr. Amanda Olmstead
Spring 2024

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1 Week 1

1.1 Tuesday 8/27/24

Historiography The study of historical writing; the narrativization of history

1.2 Thursday 8/29/24

- What is “performance”
 - On stage
 - Liveness
 - Audience
 - Story (communicated)
 - Intention to be shared
 - Ephemeral
 - Transmission of memory
 - Spiritual
 - Religious
 - Ritual
 - Personal
 - Transmission
 - Memory
 - Frame
- Richard Schechner (77)
 - “a “performance” may be defined as all the activity of a given participant on a given occasion which serves to influence in any way any of the other participants”
 - Is vs. As

- Seven Spheres of performance
 - to entertain
 - to create beauty
 - to make or change identity
 - to make or foster community
 - to heal
 - to teach or persuade
 - to deal with the sacred and the demonic
- Performance Studies
 - “Performance is everywhere — we study how it works” -NYU PS Dept.
 - Schechner — “Performance means: never for the first time. It means: for the second to the nth time. Performance is ‘twice-behaved behavior’”
 - Performances function as vital acts of transfer, transmitting social knowledge, memory, and a sense of identity through reiterated, or what Schechner has called ‘twice behaved behavior’
 - ‘Performance,’ on one level, constitutes the object/process of analysis in performance studies, that is, the many practices and events — dance, theatre, ritual, political rallies, funerals — that involve theatrical, rehearsed, or conventional/event-appropriate behaviors
 - To say something *is* a performance amounts to an ontological affirmation ...
 - On another level, performance also constitutes the methodological lens that enables scholars to analyze events as performance
 - To understand these as a performance suggests that performance also functions as an epistemology

2 Week 2

2.1 Tuesday

- Embodiment
 - Representation
 - Memories? a body?
 - Staying power? object?
 - Existing through the body
 - Communication thru body
 - Visual—Physical
 - Tangible—Visceral
 - Personify?
 - **Emodiment**
 1. A tangible or visible form of an idea quality, or feeling
 2. The representation or expression of something in a tangible or visible form.
- Ephemerality
 - Memories
 - Staying power
 - Protection
 - Recording
 - Documentation
- Field/Language
 - Gaps
 - Bias
 - Recognition
 - Translation

- Performance studies can contribute to our understanding of Latin America — and hemispheric — performance traditions by rethinking 19th century disciplinary and national boundaries and by focusing on embodied behaviors
- ...can expand the theoretical scope ...that has, due to its context, focused more on the future and ends of performance than on its historical practice.
- The Archive
 - “‘Archival’ memory exists as documents, maps, literary texts, letters, archaeological remains, bones, videos, films, CDs, all those items supposedly resistant to change” (19)
 - What changes over time is the value, relevance, or meaning of the archive, how the items it contains get interpreted, even embodied