



# ARTS3125

Experiments in Performance and Media

Term One // 2021

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jonathan Bollen	<a href="mailto:j.bollen@unsw.edu.au">j.bollen@unsw.edu.au</a>	Tuesdays, 10am-12pm; other times email for appointment	Room 246D, Robert Webster	61 2 9385 0719

### School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building (G14)

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: [sam@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sam@unsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam](http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam)

The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

From dancing robots to smartphone theatres, this course examines the shifting relationship between technology and performance cultures. It considers the expanding field of digital culture and how its applications have transformed the parameters of performance and representation. You will observe a range of performance objects, activities, events and behaviours produced in the exchange between the body and new media. You will draw on leading examples to develop your own live experiments across platforms that use Twitter, mobile media, surveillance and YouTube. You will explore the convergence of performance genres, the remediation of art works, theoretical concepts such as posthumanism and cybernetics, and how live performance engages with contemporary cultural change.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and discuss key developments in contemporary performance inspired by developments in technology
2. Evaluate the evolving relationship between technology and aesthetics
3. Assess the role of technology in performance history and in recent theoretical debates in the humanities
4. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of different modes of performance and an appreciation of their cultural and historical specificity
5. Better undertake critical debate on contemporary cultural issues
6. Pursue individual guided research
7. Construct sustained critical argument in the form of reviews or essays
8. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of selected theoretical perspectives and research methods

### Teaching Strategies

#### Rationale

This course is designed to facilitate students' learning by establishing a multimodal teaching structure in which students discuss, research, present, participate and listen. The overall aim of the course is to enable students to maintain a deeper understanding of mediated performance through facilitating connections they make between readings, case studies, presentations and screenings. Assessments reflect the expectations for excellence in research and inventiveness that this course seeks to establish. The topics the course covers reflect an ongoing commitment to teaching innovative, relevant and significant materials for the discipline of theatre/performance studies

#### Teaching strategies

This course is structured as a combination of lecture, workshop and student-led learning processes. The course includes a series of classes in lecture / workshop / discussion format, followed by a research and presentation approach, through which students are expected to integrate, apply and extend course materials with and for their peers. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the thinking-through of key theoretical and pedagogical questions specific to this course, and to proactively deepen the terms of the course through self-led research.

SEMINAR FORMAT: The seminar will be loosely structured as: lecture + visual screenings, followed by student discussion and readings (although this may change from week to week). The aim of this class format is to integrate a number of student learning modalities. The lecture information provides a platform for students to then engage in student-led learning processes through the allocation of focus questions and / or set discussion tasks. Students are able to reflectively process other students' contributions in relation to their own, and to self-determine a critical and analytic research practice.

# Assessment

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	50%	31/03/2021 11:59 PM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
Group presentation	25%	19/04/2021 09:00 AM	2, 3, 5, 6, 8
Individual Project Rationale	25%	26/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Essay

**Length:** 2,500 words

**Details:**

Individual

2,500 words

Feedback via LMS

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

### Assessment 2: Group presentation

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Details:**

20-minutes

Feedback via LMS

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Assessment 3: Individual Project Rationale

**Length:** 1,000-1,250 words

**Details:**

Individual

1000-1250 words

Feedback via LMS

This is the final assessment

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Seminar	Media Cultures, Technologies, and Practices
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Seminar	Performance and Data: Content, Aesthetic, and Method
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Seminar	Performance and Immersion: Virtual Reality and Digital Atmospheres
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Seminar	Performance and Machines: Robots, Algorithms, and Smoke
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Seminar	Performance and Remediation: Theatre Becomes Film Becomes Stream
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	No seminar – research and development week
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Seminar	Performance and Mobility: Headphones, iPhones, and Mislocation
	Assessment	Essay due, Thursday, 31 March 2021
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Seminar	Performance and Social Media: Selfies, Tweet Seats, and Memes
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Seminar	Pitches and research
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Seminar	Group project presentations in class.
	Assessment	Group project presentation, due in class, Monday, 19 April 2021  Individual project rationale, due Monday, 26 April 2021

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Required and Suggested Readings are listed on Moodle. Readings may change, or new suggested readings added, so make sure to regularly check Moodle for the most up-to-date information.

### **Recommended Resources**

Further resources can be found on Moodle.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

We welcome constructive feedback – especially written feedback (emails, notes etc.) on the course content, structure and assessment methods – not only at the conclusion of the course, but also as we go along. At the end of the course we will invite you to provide feedback using UNSW's course experience survey.

Many aspects of this course are the result of innovative student feedback from previous years. For example, the number and genre of case studies in this course has been changed in response to student feedback. With the move to a 10-week teaching term in 2019, we rearranged some content, changed some assessments, and introduced 4-hour seminars. Last year, we reduced the number of assessment tasks from four to three.



## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au) . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## **Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

## **Image Credit**

Theatre and Performance Studies, School of the Arts and Media, UNSW Sydney

## **CRICOS**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.