

# Performance Studies

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Last Updated: Fri, 11/21/2025

**Course prefix:** LMC

**Course number:** 3262

**Section:** A

**CRN**

31554

**Instructor first name:** Philip

**Instructor last name:** Auslander

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

This course explores methods for understanding and analyzing music performance. Classical music, jazz, rock, blues, country, and other genres will all be represented in our readings and classroom examples; the ideas presented are not specific to a particular genre.

Our framework for thinking about musical performance is multi-disciplinary, drawing from sociology, musicology, psychology, media studies, and performance studies. Some of the key issues to be discussed include genre; the visual aspects of musical performance; musicians' performance personae and how they are constructed and disseminated, and the means musicians use to communicate in performance, including gestures, movements, facial expressions, and stage talk.

You do not have to have any technical knowledge of music or any musical ability to take this course. Enthusiasm for some kind of music and an interest in spending a semester thinking about musicians and what they do as performers are necessary prerequisites.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence