



Course

SPRING QUARTER 2012

HUM 597A

PERFORMANCE THEORY, METHODS, AND POLITICS: A MICROSEMINAR WITH DIANA TAYLOR (1 credit, C/CN)

Instructors: Cynthia Steele (Comparative Literature) and Diana Taylor (Performance Studies and Spanish, New York University)

Course Meeting Dates and Times:

Tuesday, May 8, 3:30-5:30 pm, Communications 202
Monday, May 14, 3:30-5:30 pm, Communications 202
Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 pm, Kane 220
Wednesday, May 16, 3:30-5:30 pm, Communications 202
Tuesday, May 22, 3:30-5:30 pm Communications 202

Working at the intersection of scholarship, artistic expression, and politics, performance explores embodied practice as a vehicle for the creation of new meaning and the transmission of cultural values, memory, and identity. How would our disciplines and methodologies change if we took seriously the idea that bodies (and not only books and documents) produce, store, and transfer knowledge? This microseminar, held in conjunction with Diana Taylor's week-long residency as Katz Distinguished Lecturer, will explore methodologies for studying performance and its intersection with contemporary politics, examining performance as a site for conceptualizing and critiquing cultural practices, modernity, citizenship, and democracy.

Participants will read from Taylor's seminal work and current research, participate in a two-part workshop, and attend her Katz lecture, "Taking to the Streets: Arts and Activism in the Americas," as part of the seminar sequence.

Diana Taylor is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at New York University. She received her doctorate in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington. Taylor is the author of *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas* (2003), *Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's "Dirty War"* (1997), and *Theatre of Crisis: Drama and Politics in Latin America* (1991). She is also founding Director of NYU's Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, a collaborative, multilingual and interdisciplinary network of institutions, artists, scholars, and activists throughout the Americas.