



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts



Marloff to Retire After 36 Years with ODU Dance

Marilyn Marloff is retiring at the end of this semester. She has been with ODU for 34 years. Without doubt, Professor Marloff has had a distinguished career. She has served as Dance's Program Director for 30 of the 34 years she has been at ODU. She helped launch the Student Dance Association. She has taught 22 different classes, having created many of them from scratch for the program. Marilyn was thrice nominated for University Professor. She has choreographed over 40 works and performed in more than 30 pieces. Her dance films *The World of Dance* (1991), *Another World of Dance* (1994), and *Return to the World of Dance* (2012) have won over 15 awards and have been screened at esteemed festivals including Canadian International Festival of Films D'Art, 1st Festival Internacional de Video de Buenos Aires, Stuttgart Filmwinter and Houston International Film Festival.

Department Chair Dr. Avi Santo, says of Marilyn's time with the Dance program, "I cannot put into words how appreciative I am for having been Marilyn's colleague these past 14+ years. She exemplifies qualities that I hope to model as both a member and a leader in our department. It is not always easy to strike a balance between advocating for your program and demonstrating an investment in the achievements and goals of others, but I have always found Marilyn to be genuine in her commitment to both ensuring Dance's success and in supporting her colleagues across the department's myriad programs. She is thoughtful, conscientious, and collaborative. She has gone above and beyond in helping to foster a sense of community among dancers and in making her colleagues feel like genuine stakeholders in the dance program's success. In this, her final year at ODU, which no one would ever question as one of the most difficult years we've endured, she worked tirelessly to ensure that the program could find innovative

and safe ways for students to continue dancing and for its sense of togetherness to hold. I will miss working with her a lot."

The Dance Program's Associate Professor Megan Thompson, MFA, will be stepping into the role of Program Director. Thompson says, "I feel so fortunate to have had Marilyn as a colleague and mentor over the past 12 years. Her support and encouragement have been invaluable. From day one, she made me feel like an integral part of the Dance Program. For 34 years, Marilyn has worked tirelessly to make the Dance Program a vibrant and supportive place for both students and faculty. I personally owe Marilyn a debt of gratitude for her mentorship through the tenure process and her openness to my ideas and suggestions. In addition to her incredible dedication to the program, she has been a friend to all with her thoughtfulness, encouragement and playful sense of humor. It is an understatement to say that she will be greatly missed here in the department."

For Assistant Professor of Dance James Morrow, MFA, Marloff's enthusiasm, formidable spirit, and advocacy for the Dance program, its faculty and students are inspirational: "Marilyn has a joy for dance that is contagious. She is warm and approachable, and I have learned a great deal from her."

Dr. Santo sums up the feelings of faculty, staff, and students in the department, saying, "While I am saddened to lose such an inspiring colleague who has been such a fierce and dedicated advocate for the Dance program, its faculty and students, I really hope that Marilyn is able to enjoy her retirement knowing that she has earned it fully for her accomplishments."

2021 Dance Film Showcase ScreenDance Opens April 26



Our Dance Program proudly presents the 2021 Spring Screendance, a unique Dance Film Showcase!

This showcase features works by Jeremy Bates, Marilyn Marloff, Rebekah Rickards, Natalia Schradle, Renata Sheppard, and Megan Thompson.

These films can be screened on the [ODU Dance Vimeo page](#) from April 26-May 3, 2021.

Live Theatre Returns with *WORKING: A Musical*



How do we return to live performances at ODU? How about a live drive-in outdoor musical on Brock Commons, on April 15-18 at 8pm?

ODURep & ODU Opera, in collaboration with Warehouse of Theatre, present *Working*, a musical celebration of the essential worker.

Working, nominated for six Tony Awards, paints a vivid portrait of the people the world so often takes for granted – the essential workers. *Working* is a musical exploration of people from all walks of life; by exploring these 'invisible' professions we can transcend them to find some core truths about humanity through the way every person relates to their work.

Based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book, *Working* was adapted by Nina Faso and Stephen Schwartz, with additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg and songs by Craig Carnelia, James Taylor, Mary Rodgers, Micki Grant, Stephen Schwartz, Susan Birkenhead, and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The Creative Team for this production includes Katherine Hammond (director), Brian Nedvin (music director), Ricardo Melendez (choreography), Woody Robinson (set & lights), Lee Smith (projections), Justin McLawhorn (sound), Meredith Magoun (costumes), & Jim Lyden (technical director), with Chris Hanna producing.

Working (2012 Revised Version) is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Go to ODUArtsTix.com for showtimes and information!



Will & Judy, a 3-part comedy series from the Technical Theatre Association, directed by Film Professor Dr. Carolina Conte is now showing! With our students Brandi Shook, Jeff Shook, Frances Calderon, Tim Suddeth, Curtis Betourne, Twanika Washington and Avery Keys, *Will & Judy* is a Virginia Wolff/William Shakespeare mash-up for our modern and not-so modern times!

CHECK OUT [EPISODE 1](#) & [EPISODE 2](#) NOW.

Vashist Awarded Two ODU Grants for Film Projects That Center Social Justice



The Department of Communication & Theatre Arts' Film Professor Priya Vashist, MFA, has the distinguished honor of being awarded both ODU's 2021 PURS grant and a Summer Research Fellowship.

In fulfillment of the Summer Research Fellowship, Vashist will be refining the screenplay of the film *Yet SO Far* with the help of information collected from interviews with queer women of Indian and Filipino backgrounds in San Francisco, who have lived the diaspora experience. The film centers themes of LGBTQ East and South Asian diaspora experiences, political denial, hate crimes against queer immigrants of color, and the invisibility of queerness of South Asian women.

By giving queer South Asian women a voice through *Yet SO Far* and drawing on her own experiences as a queer Indian woman in America, Vashist has larger goals for the final work, "I hope this project will help increase visibility of queer South Asian community as they have been historically underrepresented in film, both in the United States and internationally."

Out of 17 highly competitive proposals at ODU this year, Vashist was awarded one of only five funded proposals for the PURS grant. Supported by the \$10,000 award, Vashist will be working on a short documentary film that tells the story of Norfolk's William A. Hunton YMCA, "As the oldest independent historically African American YMCA in our country, the documentary will cover its history, interwoven with William A. Hunton's journey to become the first African-American full-time director of a YMCA in the United States, and later on becoming the first African American Secretary employed by the International Committee of the YMCA."

By establishing the historical significance of Hunton Y to Norfolk with this film, Vashist also argues for racial advancement of Norfolk's African American community, "The main focus of the film will be on the narrative of the struggle for survival being put up by Hunton Y, in the bigger context of gentrification and displacement of residents of Tidewater Gardens public housing in Norfolk."

In our current political climate, she considers it more important than ever to tell and share stories about underrepresented and underserved communities of our country, "Through *Hunton Y: A Hope for Change*, I quite literally hope to bring about change in the way cities have been encouraging gentrification through various rules and policies."

Vashist finds it critical that her films address themes of inclusion and aim for wider goals of change, "My works focus on social justice and representation of minorities on screen, especially queer people of color. My films have tackled topics such as racism, immigration, hate crimes, invisibility of South Asian queerness, and racial, gender and sexual identity. I want to continue exploring these themes in the future, with the goal of informing and educating audiences from more privileged backgrounds."

She continues, "I believe that racism, xenophobia, and homophobia have originated from a lack of understanding of people who are different from the majority. Films have the power to educate and engage audiences by making them relate more to whom they consider the others. My biggest goal through my work is to evoke empathy in audiences for people who are not like them."

Vashist hopes her film students become inspired to document important stories, whether from their lives or their surroundings, and bring them to the screen: "As a filmmaker, my purpose is to tell stories and amplify voices that have not been heard before. Films have a wide outreach and I hope for them to make use of it in a way that benefits humanity."

APRIL/MAY 2021

April 15 - 18:

Working: A Musical at 8pm each night.
www.ODUArtsTix.com Tickets are free

April 16:

Department Meeting; 2:00-4:00 PM, [Zoom link](#)

April 26 - May 3:

2021 Spring ScreenDance showing on
[ODU Dance Vimeo page](#)

ODU Alumni Association “40 Under 40” Awards Feature Five Department Grads

We couldn't be more proud of our Department Alums on ODU Alumni Association's "40 Under 40" awardee list!
CONGRATS to Noelle Cook, Jillian Goodwin, Mimi D, Jessica Bedenbaugh, and Jeremy Bustin!
Read more details at odualumni.org/40under40.



Noelle Cook, 35

Assistant Director of Annual Giving, Norfolk State University
College of Arts & Letters

Noelle excels in academic fundraising consistently raising over \$1 million annually and creating new fundraising programs for Norfolk State University. With over 10 years of experience in higher education and development, Noelle is able to translate this knowledge into her relationship with her alma mater and currently serves as the president of the ODU Black Alumni Chapter. In addition, Noelle actively supports other academic, religious and affordable housing organizations.



Jillian Goodwin, 29

Director of Marketing and Communications, Hampton Roads Alliance
College of Arts & Letters

Jillian drives the mission of the Hampton Roads Alliance as its director of marketing and communications. Among her many honors, Jillian has been named a *Coastal VA Magazine* Millennial on the Move and a Most Influential Patient by the CFF VA Chapter and has received the Junior League's President's Award. Jillian is a CIVIC Scholar, member of THRIVE Young Professionals, and a graduate of LEAD Hampton Roads.



Mimi D, 36

Manicurist, Entrepreneur
College of Arts & Letters

Since earning her degree in communications, Mimi D has become one of the beauty industry's top manicurists. Mimi D has led New York Fashion Week shows, worked with celebrities for magazine covers and ad campaigns and been represented in features for companies such as Ulta, Revlon and Airheads. Mimi D has won numerous awards for her work and, in 2013, was named a brand ambassador for Sephora.



Jessica Bedenbaugh, 31

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Portsmouth Economic Development
College of Arts & Letters

Jessica, in her role with Portsmouth Economic Development, has supported an increased investment in the city including helping to bring casino legislation, the largest deal in recent history, into fruition. Jessica's numerous board involvements beyond her professional role have included Samaritan House, Together We Can, and 75Accelerate. Her achievements have been recognized by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, *CoVa Biz Magazine* and *Inside Business*.



Jeremy Bustin, 39

Senior PR Professional, Emerson Automation Solutions
College of Arts & Letters

Transitioning from a sales career into the field of public relations (PR), Jeremy quickly rose to top roles within two Fortune 500 corporations. He is currently a senior PR manager at Emerson and has been honored for his work by the Public Relations Society of America. Jeremy has dedicated significant time to Virginia Musical Theatre, offering his marketing and PR services to the nonprofit's arts programs.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DON KIERNAN



When Communication & Theatre Arts alum Don Kiernan recently took on the role of VP of Global Sales & Marketing at Cass Information Systems, he viewed client communication success as critical to his main leadership

goals for new client acquisitions, growth of existing client bases, solutions engineering and marketing.

“We work with Global 2000 companies to help mitigate the challenges and expense of dealing with complexities of large voice, data, mobile and cloud networks around the world,” Kiernan says, his team has to ensure they “have the tools and messaging to generate inbound and outbound leads and most importantly, solving the client’s challenges.”

Kiernan honed these skills into a fine art at ODU in 1983. Originally coming to ODU through the NROTC program, he soon developed an interest in broadcasting and mass communications. While pursuing a focus in radio and television management, a WAVY TV internship introduced Don to new pathways.

“I was advised that the fast track to management was through sales, so I started thinking about this as a career path. In the end, I never went into broadcasting, but I have spent most of my career in the telecommunications and IT industries.”

Courses for his communication degree laid the groundwork for later accomplishments: “I still remember how challenging Argument, Reasoning & Debate class was, but it was extremely instructive in supporting things I now do every day.”

Don points out that strategic communication foundations are more than adaptable to marketing careers even in a largely digital world.

“How marketing is done and how we get our message out there has changed dramatically over the years, but the basics - product, price, place and promotion - are the same. The ability to clearly and effectively communicate a message is one of the key skills that is needed in almost every occupation, but few more critical than in a sales role. Whether it’s verbal/non-verbal or in writing, how you interact with people is often a make-or-break proposition.”

In his professional career, Don has counted many achievements as well. “I have been fortunate enough to be able to progressively grow in my role and the types of opportunities I got to work on,” Don says, “Over time, deals got bigger and more complex to where the values would sometimes run over \$100 million. You don’t get a lot of those in a career, so closing a few was pretty exciting.”

As for words of wisdom to our future and recent Communication graduating students, Kiernan prizes openness: “Have a plan, but be open to unexpected possibilities,” Don advises, “There are a tremendous number of resources available to learn about the things that interest you and could make a huge difference in your career success. If you think about the percentage of work that is actually communication no matter what field we’re talking about, the ability to connect with people is essential to success. Doing this right will set you apart.”

Kiernan has found value in communication skills to building long-term relationships and establishing credibility and trust for leading and managing people and approaching clients, but also for maintaining close connections. “Focus on building and growing your network,” he says. “I was fortunate enough to have made a number of life-long friends during my time at ODU that have had major impacts on my life and success, but their friendships have been more valuable than anything else.”

KUDOS!

CONGRATS to Cinema & TV Production students **ROME BROWN** and **MIKQUAN JOHNSON**! Their works produced during the Spring 2020 WHRO Production class taught by Diane Fine were featured on WHRO-TV's creative showcase "Curate."



"Capturing Memories: Brent Hearn" directed by **ROME BROWN**



"D for Dolls: Nastassja Ebony Swift" directed by **MIKQUAN JOHNSON**

Film alum **NATE VILLAIRE** has been accepted to the Master's Program at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business Brandcenter.

JAMES MORROW's directed work *The Wonder Years* was recently selected by FilmFest by Rogue Dancer via FilmFreeway.com.

AVI SANTO recently published an essay "Smart Is the New Cool": Project MC2 and the Marketing of STEM Lifestyles to Tween Girl" in *The Marketing of Children's Toys: Critical Perspectives on Children's Consumer Culture*; Hains, Rebecca, Jennings, Nancy A. (Eds.)

SHARE YOUR RECENT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS [HERE!](#)

Supporting Health of LGBTQIA+ Students at ODU

This form aims to provide useful information to ODU faculty and staff about how to support LGBTQIA+ students. The sections below provide useful definitions and facts about LGBTQIA+ individuals, as well as actionable items to support LGBTQIA+ students on campus.

What does LGBTQIA+ mean?

LGBTQIA+ (often seen as LGB, LGBT, or LGBTQ+) is an abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual communities (+ refers to other identities that are a part of this community). This acronym is used broadly to refer to a community of individuals whose identity is based on their sexual orientation (i.e., type of sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction one feels for others), gender identity (i.e., internal perception of one's gender, and how they label themselves), or gender expression (i.e., external appearance of one's gender identity). For more terminology info, click [here](#).

What do I need to know about LGBTQIA+ students' mental health and safety?

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among college-aged youth (CDC, 2019). LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to think about and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender (i.e., gender identity matches an individual's sex assigned at birth) and straight/heterosexual peers ([Trevor Project, 2020](#)). Approximately 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ youth report being physically threatened or harmed in their lifetime due to their LGBTQIA+ identity ([Trevor Project, 2020](#)). Victimization significantly increases the likelihood of mental health problems and suicide attempts. Importantly, we know that safe spaces, acceptance, respecting pronouns, and affirming environments can have a powerful impact on LGBTQIA+ groups and reduce rates of negative mental health outcomes, including suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Here are some tips for how YOU can create a more inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ students at ODU!

How can I create a more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ students?

1. Respect students' identities – pronouns and chosen names:

- Let students identify themselves. For instance, ask them to fill out index cards with their pronouns and chosen name or create a survey that allows students to privately self-identify (pronouns and chosen name) to the instructor. Include questions like "What is my name?" "What do I like to be called?" and "What are my pronouns?"

[\(Click here for more information\)](#)

- Watch helpful videos. [Video: 'Ask Me': What LGBTQ Students Want Their Professors to Know](#)
- Avoid using gendered language in classroom examples, assignments, and when addressing students:
 - Instead of ("ladies and gentlemen," "boys/girls"), use neutral words like "scientists," "readers," "athletes," "writers," "artists," "scholars," etc. To refer to the larger group, use non-gendered terms such as "y'all", "folks", "students".

2. Share/include your pronouns (he/him/his; she/her/hers; they/them/theirs) with your students:

- Share your pronouns on the first day of class ("I'm Professor Smith, my pronouns are she/her")
- Put your pronouns on your syllabus with your contact information
- Add pronouns to your Zoom name:
 - Click Participants. Next to your name, click the down arrow next to "More" and choose "Rename". Change your name to include your pronouns (e.g., Dr. Smith (she/her))
- Include your pronouns in your email signature when communicating with students. Example below:
 - PROFESSOR NAME, PhD
Pronouns: he/him/his

Supporting Health of LGBTQIA+ Students at ODU

3. Become Safe Space certified:

- Become an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community through ODU's Safe Space training. Information about Safe Space training can be found [here](#).
- If you are already Safe Space certified, mention it during class during the first day. Explain what your role is as a faculty member who's an LGBTQIA+ ally (consider an "elevator speech" of under 1 minute). Include Safe Space certification in your signature along with pronouns.

4. Add an Inclusive statement to your course syllabi:

- Example of an inclusive welcome statement in syllabus:

"In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute. Please take care to respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by students and staff involved in this course. We support ODU's commitment to diversity and welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, abilities, sexes, genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, family statuses, geographical locations, education levels, languages, military experiences, political views, religions, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences."
- [Click here for additional sources on diversity and inclusion for university syllabi.](#)
- [Click here for an email template for students to edit and send to professors indicating their pronouns and chosen name.](#)

What are resources for LGBTQ+ students at ODU and in the community?

- ODU organizations and program links:
 - [Queer Mentor Program](#)
 - [Sexuality and Gender Alliance \(SAGA\)](#)
 - [Office of Intercultural Relations](#)
- Mental Health @ ODU:
 - ODU Counseling Services ARE available! Call 757-683-4401, press option #1 to schedule an appointment, press option #2 to speak with a counselor right away. All ODU counselors are Safe Space trained and allies of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Mental Health Local:
 - [LGBT Life Center](#), Call: 757-640-0929
 - [Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia](#)
 - [Equality Virginia Resources](#)
 - [Off-Campus Referral Network for Counseling Services](#)
- Mental Health National:
 - [Trevor Project Resources](#)
 - Hotline Available 24/7 Call: 1-866-488-7386, Text: START to 678-678, [To chat, click here](#).
 - [Trans Lifeline](#): Call: 1-877-565-8860, Available 10am-4am EST.
 - [Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays \(PFLAG\)](#)
 - [Support page for individuals, families, or allies](#)
 - [Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation \(GLAAD\) resource list](#)
 - [Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\) resource list](#)

This work is supported by a Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant (#H79SM080472) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The view, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.



**Instructor:
Dr. Natalia Pilato**

ARTS 495 – 22786

cross-listed with..

AAST 495 – 22974

COMM 495 - 22787

CRJS 495 - 22788

DANC 495 - 22789

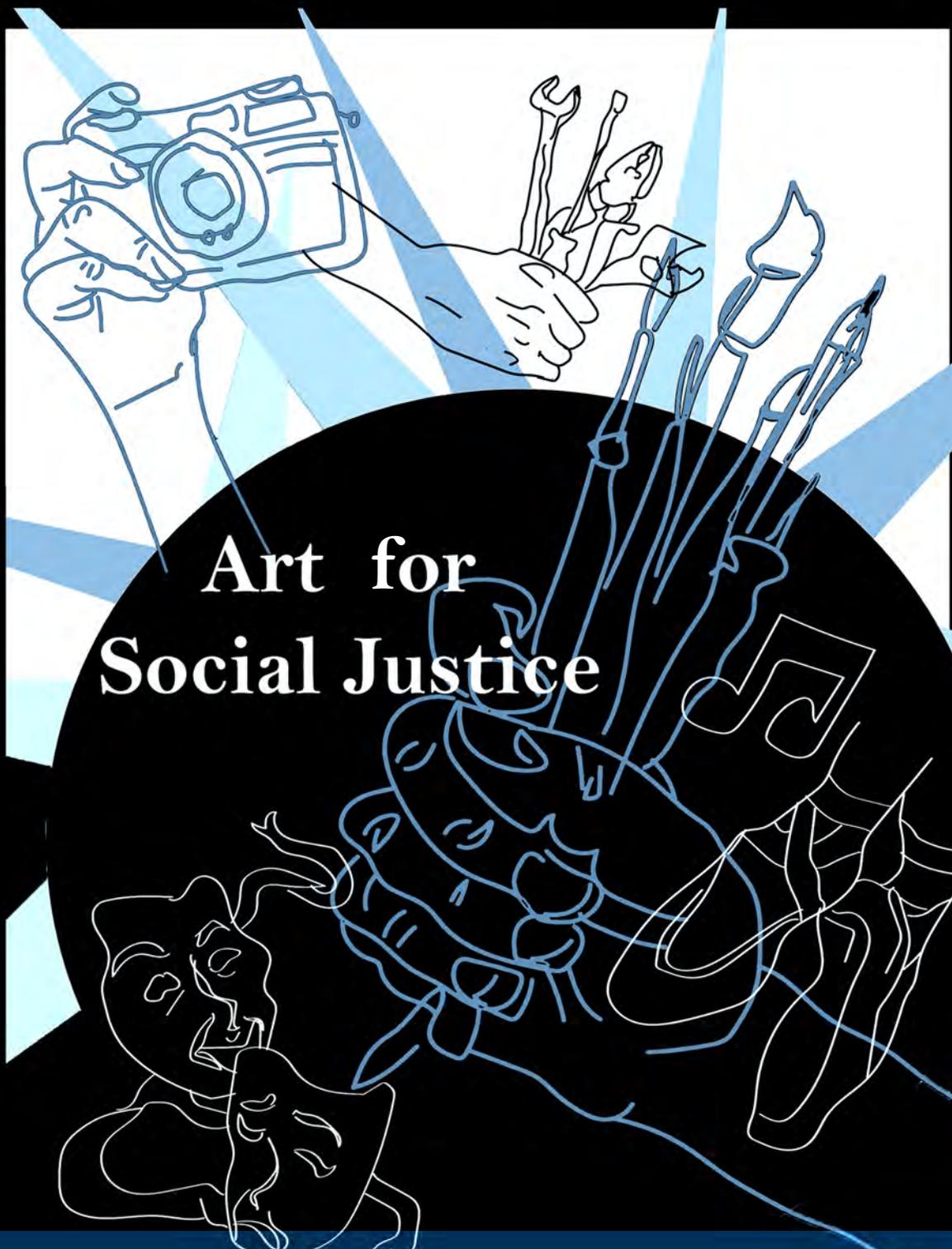
HMSV 495 - 22790

PAS 495 - 22975

SOC 495 - 22791

THEA 495 - 22792

**Tues-Thurs
4:20-7:00 PM
HAS 2002**



Art for Social Justice

Become familiar with visual and performance artists, past and present, who use their practice to address social justice issues.

Students will collaborate using artistic methods and arts-based research, to create works that address a social justice issue.

Final works/performances will be presented to the public during ODU's first annual Art and Social Justice Themester.

For more information contact Dr. Pilato at npilato@odu.edu



FALL 2021

COMM 495 (23069)

THEA 495 (23070)

ASIA 495 (23071)

COMM 595 (23072)

HUM 595 (23073)

Asian American Media & Social Justice

TUESDAYS in BAL 3062

4:20 PM - 7:00 PM

For more information, contact

Dr. Avi Santo • asanto@odu.edu

Professor Priya Vashist • pvashist@odu.edu

This course will investigate how Asian Americans have been depicted in popular culture and its impact on Asian American communities, and how Asian American filmmakers and activists have created media to challenge/document/educate/unite against misrepresentation.

Students will work toward curating a film festival focused on Asian American cinema to be held at the end of the semester. There will be an online synchronous option for grad students.

This course is cross-listed as part of the Art & Social Justice Themester.



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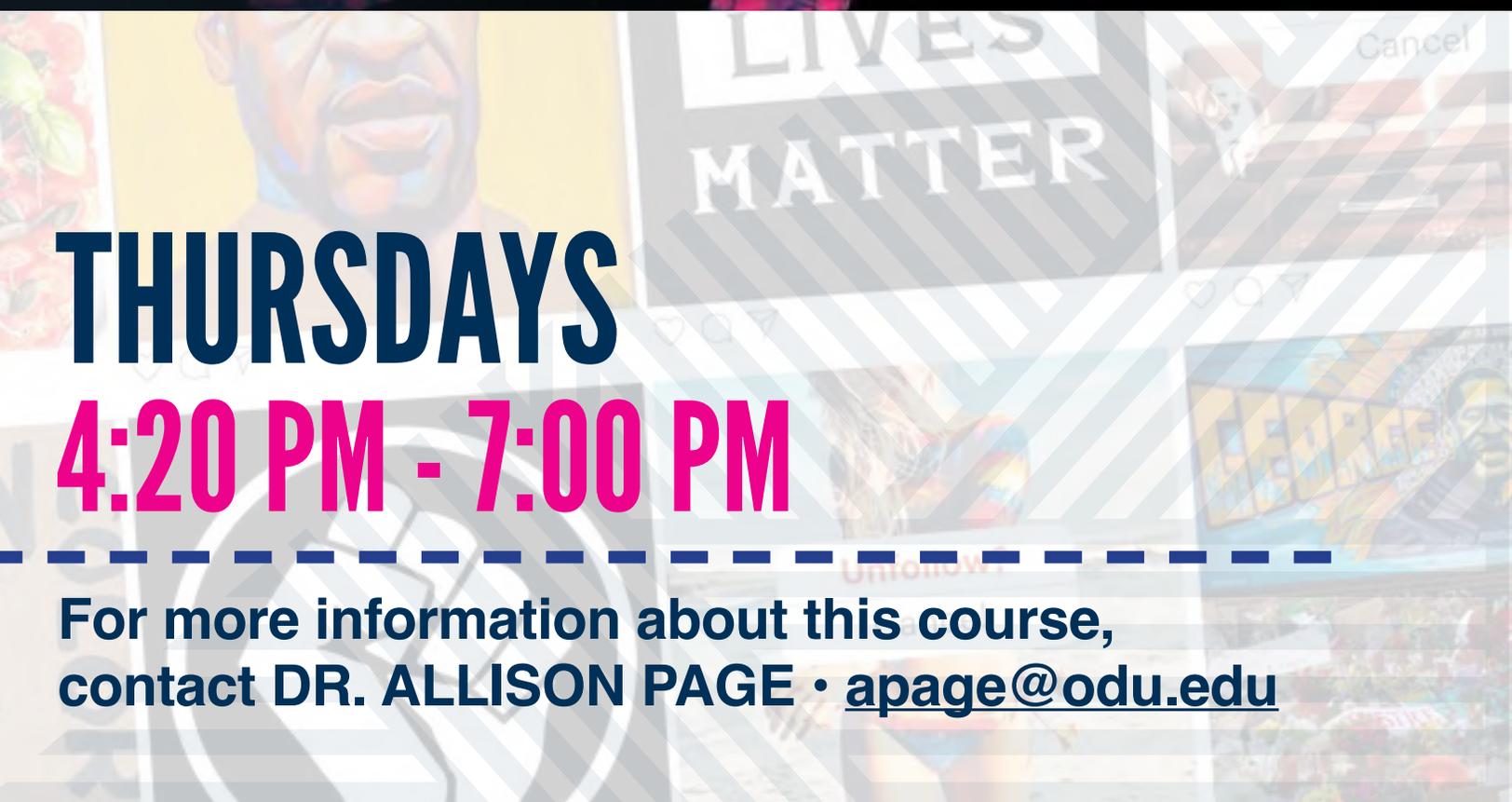
Department of Communication and Theatre Arts



FALL 2021

COMM 695

Media Activism and Social Justice



THURSDAYS

4:20 PM - 7:00 PM

For more information about this course,
contact DR. ALLISON PAGE • apage@odu.edu



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