COURSES TAUGHT (1998-Present)

CS4803: Computational Improv
Georgia Tech, Spring 2010
(One section, nine students total)
The class, which I co-instructed with Professor Bill Leahy of the College of Computing, explored the use of digital media in real-time improvisational environments. Students learned the basic concepts of improv comedy and designed software and hardware tools for improv comedy performers to interact with and operate during a live show at Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta.

English 1102: Contemporary American Comedy
Georgia Tech, Spring 2010
(Three sections, seventy-five students total)
Drawing on Performance Studies scholarship and cultural analyses, students considered the ways in which comic identities are constructed, expressed and contested within and across different mediums of expression. Particular attention was paid to celebrity biography as an example of "writing as performance." In addition to classroom study, participants attended a range of stand-up and improvisation comedy performances in the Atlanta community.

English 1102: Performance and the City
Georgia Tech, Spring and Fall 2009
(Three sections, seventy-seven students total)
Participants in the course examined the pivotal role of live performance in shaping the dynamic cultural landscape of Atlanta in 2009. They viewed and critiqued a diverse range of live performance events that have defined the City's character, history and location as the gateway to the South. The class introduced students to performance studies methods of inquiry, while exposing them to the unique contributions of practitioners in the local community.

English 1101: Funny or Die: Acts of Humor that Shaped a Nation
Georgia Tech, Fall 2008
(Three sections, seventy-eight students total)
The goal of the course was to engage students in a sustained conversation about the experience, nature and function of comedy in contemporary American culture. Students analyzed the impact of live performance events, films and new technologies of laughter (humor-based Web sites, YouTube videos, podcasts, wikis and many more) on national identity formation.

English 1102: Art, Technology and Creative Production
Georgia Tech, Spring 2008
(Three sections, eighty-three students total)
Students explored the role of computers in contemporary art making by examining works crafted by Atlanta-based artists who employ advanced computer technologies as creative

tools of expression. The course was offered as part of a pilot program aimed at matching the interests of students with issues associated with their majors.

English 1101: Playing the Fame Game: Media and the Making of Celebrity Culture
Georgia Tech, Fall 2007
(Three sections, seventy-six students total*)*
The class invited participants to consider the practice of fame in contemporary American life, with particular emphasis on comedians and comedic actors. Students investigated the impact of new media technologies and viral distribution processes on the formulation of celebrity identities in the popular press.

Staging Dracula: Multimedia Literary Adaptation
Northwestern University, Winter 2005
(One section, nine students total)
 Co-instructed this class with Dan Zellner, Northwestern University Library
Students in this production course worked together to integrate interactive digital multimedia into live performance by adapting, designing and performing scenes from *Dracula* for public presentation.

Projects in Art and Technology: Multimedia Improvisation
 Northwestern University, Fall 2003
(One section, fifteen students total)
Co-taught the course with Dan Zellner, Northwestern University Library
The class provided undergraduates the opportunity to collaboratively conceive stage and present an improvisational multimedia work that combined comedic performance and interactive digital media.

Contemporary Irish Fiction
 Northwestern University, Spring 2001
(One section, eighteen students total)
Participants in the course adapted scenes from literary sources and learned how to analyze fiction within a performance context.

Contemporary Irish Drama
 Northwestern University, Spring 2000
(One section, twenty-five students total)
Students examined cultural performance as an experiential and compositional process by analyzing dramatic text and developing scenes based on their interpretations of source materials.

English Theatre History and Practice
 Northwestern University's London Study Program, Summer 1998
(One section, twenty-three students total)
The class invited participants to attend and comment upon London-based theatre productions, introducing them to the fundamentals of theatrical criticism.