

Name: Scott O'Neil

Course Description: WRT 105-- Speaking the Speech

Poet David Morley has argued that “All writing is performance.” In this class, we will test Morley’s assertion on two levels. First, we will analyze a wide variety of texts, including speeches, blogs, letters, and scenes from such films as *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Shawshank Redemption*. Are all of these texts performative? Can a text not intended for performance carry performative subtext? We will also explore the uses of performance in our own writing. Using activities adapted from the Folger Shakespeare Library, we will question how our writing process can change when we treat it not as a wholly cognitive act, but as a performance text. To be clear—though this class *will* require you to perform your own writing, it is *not* an acting class. The act of preparing your writing for performance will be our primary concern, and we will use that approach in pre-writing, peer review, self-assessment and the revision process in order to create well-organized essays, culminating with an 8-10 page research paper.