

Carleton University
Winter 2015
Department of English

ENGL 3904A&B — Drama Workshop
Monday: 11:30-14:25A, 14:35-15:25B
Classroom: TBD

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sarah McVie

Office: 1914

Office Hours: 9-11:15AM, Mondays, or by appointment

Email: sarahmcvie@gmail.com

Shakespeare in Performance

Shakespeare's plays have remained popular since they were first performed over 400 years ago. This practical course will allow students to explore an approach to Shakespeare's work through the process of adapting, rehearsing and performing a particular scene from one of his plays.

Course Objective

Students will leave this class with a practical understanding of the requirements necessary for mounting a piece of theatre inspired by Shakespeare's work. Questions of design and interpretation will be approached under the guidance of a professional theatre artist. The course will culminate in a presentation of the created piece for an invited audience.

Class Format

We will meet once a week for three hours. There is an expectation of additional outside hours required for rehearsal of the piece in preparation for performance.

Course Assessment

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process		15%
Quiz: Theatre Practice	There will be one in class quiz based on discussions in class and readings from <i>The Drama Handbook</i> .	February 23rd	5%
World Picture	Create and deliver a presentation on	January	15%

Project	an aspect of everyday life in Tudor England. Submit a summary of your findings (500 words).	19th	
Design Project (Group)	Prepare a proposal for the production's design concept. Each group will present a 20-minute "pitch" to the class. Additionally, each individual will submit a reflection on the collaborative process and their opinion on the proposed design (500-700 words).	February 2nd	20%
Dramaturgy Project	Paraphrase a selection of text (30-50 lines of verse or 300-400 words) from the play. Use contemporary allusions and vernacular language that suits the setting chosen for your scene. Include a glossary of 10 "tricky" words from the original text.	February 23rd	20%
Scene Project	Perform assigned roles in a staged version of the selected scene. Fulfill any production requirements as arranged with your group and in collaboration with the designers from the Architecture Theatre Workshop. Submit a reflection on the experience (500-1000)	March 30th	25%

Course Outline

WEEK 1	Jan. 5	<p>Course overview and detailed description of assignments and due dates.</p> <p>Discussion: Why stage Shakespeare? Overview of the rehearsal process. Physical and vocal warm-up Ensemble work</p> <p>Assign: World Picture Project (due in class Jan. 19th) Read: Selected Shakespeare plays.</p>
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		Purchase required text: <i>The Drama Handbook</i> (available at Haven Books)
WEEK 2	Jan. 12	Discussion: Speaking Shakespeare Working with the verse Read through selected scenes Reading: <i>The Drama Handbook, Chapter 1-4</i> Assign: Design Project (due Feb. 2nd)
WEEK 3	Jan. 19	Due: World Picture Project Continue working with scenes Assign: Dramaturgy Project (due March 2nd, to be submitted on CuLearn) Reading: <i>The Drama Handbook, Part 2, Chapters 5,6 & 8</i>
WEEK 4	Jan. 26	Scene work Paraphrasing the text Improvisation for generating written material Reading: <i>The Drama Handbook, Part 3, Chapters 12 & 14</i>
WEEK 5	Feb. 2	Due: Design Project Presentations Discussion: design concept for scenes Read: <i>The Drama Handbook, Part 4 (half)</i>
WEEK 6	Feb. 9	Character work Writing session in groups Assign: Scene Project and casting Read: finish <i>Part 4 of The Drama Handbook</i>
WEEK 7	Feb. 23	Scene work Due: in-class quiz: theatre practice

WEEK 8	Mar. 2	Due: Dramaturgy Project (submit on CuLearn) Scene work
WEEK 9	Mar. 9	Blocking
WEEK 10	Mar. 16	Character work
WEEK 11	Mar. 23	Scene work: integrating the technical elements
WEEK 12	Mar. 30	Technical Dress Rehearsal followed by notes (This will potentially be an invited dress rehearsal meaning an audience would be present) Due: Personal Reflection on rehearsal process (submit hard copy in class or to English Department main office on the 18 th floor of Dunton Tower)
WEEK 13	April 6	Final Performance for an invited audience

Required Text:

Lennard, John, and Mary Luckhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*. New York, Oxford, 2002. Print.

Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>