

Carleton University
Winter 2014
Department of English

ENGL 3904B — Drama Workshop
Mondays: 14:35 – 17:25
Classroom: Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Instructor: Sarah McVie
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Office Hours: TBA
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Shakespeare in Performance

“The Play’s the Thing”

Shakespeare’s plays have remained popular since they were first performed over 400 years ago. This course will take students through the process of adapting, rehearsing and performing a Shakespearean play.

Course Objective

Students will leave this class with an understanding of the requirements of mounting a piece of theatre based on a classical work. Questions of design and interpretation will be approached under the guidance of a professional theatre artist. The class will work in collaboration with the students of the Theatre Production Workshop being offered by the School of Architecture. The course will culminate in a presentation of the piece for an invited audience.

Class Format

We will meet once a week for three hours. Some additional rehearsal time will be necessary throughout the term. Students will be expected to do a minimum of 4 hours per week of research, writing and preparation for rehearsal.

Each class will contain four sections:

1. Physical and vocal warm-up; skill building exercises
2. Discussion/lecture/group work
3. Rehearsal/presentation
4. Check in re progress

Course Assessment

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process.		10%
Production History Report	Research a previous production of the chosen play and write a 500 word production history report.	Jan. 27th	15%
Design Project	Prepare a proposal for the production's design concept in collaboration with your group members. Each group will present their proposal in class and submit a 500 word rationale. Additionally, each group member will write a 250 word personal reflection on the collaborative process and their personal reaction to the chosen design concept.	Feb. 10th	15%
Character Study	Create a character study based on the tools discussed in class.	March 10th	15%
Production Group	Develop, fulfill and monitor the aspect of production assigned to your group. Each group member will submit a 500 word summary of the experience including a reflection on their own contribution, a detailed description of the collaborative process, and an assessment of the effectiveness of that element of production.	April 7th (interim report due March 17th)	15%
Performance	Perform assigned role(s) in a staged version of the selected play.	April 7th (lines memorized by Mar.24)	30%

***A detailed rubric will be provided for each assignment.**

Week 1	Jan. 6th	<p>Lecture: Shakespeare in Performance</p> <p>Course overview including a detailed description of assignments and due dates.</p> <p>Assign: Production History Report (due Jan. 27th)</p>
Week 2	Jan. 13th	<p>Lecture: The Rehearsal Process</p> <p>First read of the chosen play followed by discussion.</p> <p>Assign: Design Project (due Feb. 10th)</p>
Week 3	Jan. 20th	<p>Seminar: Lighting for the Theatre (guest lecturer, TBA)</p> <p>Meet with Design group.</p>
Week 4	Jan. 27th	<p>Seminar: Directing Shakespeare (guest lecturer, TBA)</p> <p>Second read of chosen play.</p> <p>Due: Production History Report</p>
Week 5	Feb. 3rd	<p>Seminar: Adapting Shakespeare and Playing in Parks (guest lecturer, TBA)</p> <p>Meet with Design Group to finalize presentation.</p>
Week 6	Feb. 10th	<p>Lecture: Playing the Role</p> <p>Third read followed by table work.</p> <p>Due: Design Project Presentations</p> <p>Assign: Character Study (due March 10th)</p>
Week 7	Feb. 24th	<p>Lecture: The Elements of Production</p> <p>First rehearsal with casting.</p> <p>Assign: Production Groups</p>
Week 8	Mar. 3rd	<p>Table work.</p> <p>Meet with Production Groups.</p>

Week 9	Mar. 10th	Up on our feet: blocking. Meet with Production groups. Due: Character Study
Week 10	Mar. 17th	Blocking continued. Meet with Production groups. Due: Interim report from Production Groups
Week 11	Mar. 24th	Stumble through play. Due: lines memorized
Week 12	Mar. 31st	Tech run of show.
Week 13	April 7th	Final presentation for an invited audience.

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.

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>