

**Carleton University  
Fall 2021  
Department of English**

**ENGL 1609A: *Introduction to Drama Studies***

**Day/Time: Monday/Wednesday 11:35 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.**  
**Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central***  
**Format: Online (Synchronous)**

**Instructor: Professor Janne Cleveland**  
**Email: [JanneCleveland@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:JanneCleveland@cunet.carleton.ca)**  
**Office: 1913**  
**Phone: 613-520-2600 ext. 2320**  
**Office Hours: by appointment**

**Course Description:**

Drama combines the literary arts of storytelling, movement, and poetry with the world of live performance. As a form of ritual as well as entertainment, drama has served to unite communities and challenge social norms, to energize and/or disturb audiences, and to move us out of our complacency. The dramatic arts respond to the conditions of our existence and serve to both reflect and inform the social and political moral values in a given time and place. In order to understand this rich art form more fully, we will study a sampling of plays that exemplify different kinds of theatrical practice, the history of performance, and the interpretation of dramatic texts in the Western canon.

**Students can expect to achieve the following Learning Outcomes:**

- 1 To provide the tools necessary to read and analyze dramatic texts from a variety of times and places appreciatively, pleurably, and critically.
- 2 To expand your vocabulary in the field of drama.
- 3 To understand the distinction between critique and criticize.
- 4 To increase your awareness of ethical, historical, political and artistic questions, as these emerge in dramatic literatures and performance contexts.
- 5 To improve and refine your ability to effectively express and communicate ideas and make arguments pertinent to the study of drama.
- 6 To understand the role of drama as a means to critically reflect on the worlds that we inhabit.

**This is an online synchronous course.** This means that students will meet during class time, as specified for the course (in this case, Mon/Weds 11:35 – 12:55). Short asynchronous (on your own time) lecture videos will be posted to Brightspace from time to time and must be watched before the class for which they are posted. Check Brightspace for each weekly module and stay up to date with all materials for the class. You are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. The syllabus and all assignment deadlines

will be posted to Brightspace. This course requires reliable high-speed Internet access and a computer (ideally with a webcam), and a headset with a microphone. A zoom link will be provided prior to the start of the course and will be found on our Brightspace course page.

**NOTE:** Navigating online classes presents some challenges. You are expected attend classes on the zoom platform, for which your instructor will provide a link. If you find you are having difficulty keeping up with the course content, your assignments, or any aspects of the course talk to you instructor as soon as possible. I want you to succeed and will provide support as necessary to maintain your academics and mental health.

**A list of minimum tech requirements for online learning can be found here:**

<https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/faq-technical-specs-for-new-students/>

**Required Reading:**

*Oedipus Tyrannos* Sophocles (c. 429 BCE)  
*The Rover* Aphra Behn (1677)  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde (1895)  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* Tennessee Williams (1955)  
*Rez Sisters* Tomson Highway (1986)  
*Harlem Duet* Djanet Sears (1997)

**\*All plays are contained in *The Broadview Anthology of Drama: Concise Edition*. This text is available at Haven Books, which can ship texts anywhere in North America. Consult their website <https://www.havenbooks.ca/>**

**International students:** the publisher will provide a link to the text for you because the text is not available for shipping outside of North America. If you need this, contact me ahead of the start of class and I will add you to the list. Only add your name if you are outside of the North American shipping area.

**NOTE:** You will be expected to have read each play before the class in which we will study it. Don't worry if it seems unclear when you are reading, since some of the plays use language you may not be familiar. We will discuss each play in detail in class, which is why it is important for you to come prepared, having read the text in advance.

**Highly recommended:**

Composition Handbook (e.g., *The Broadview Guide to Writing - Student Edition*) This text will help you develop your academic writing skills throughout your university experience.

**Quick Course calendar:**

This is not a comprehensive calendar, but indicates change in topic or an assignment due

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
September 15	Ancient Greek Drama ( <i>Oedipus</i> )	
September 22		cuPortfolio – Personal Bio
September 27	Restoration Drama ( <i>The Rover</i> )	
October 11	Comedy of Manners ( <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> )	
October 15		Character Study
October 20	MLA Workshop	In-class practice
November 1	American Realism ( <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> )	
November 5		Annotated Bibliography
November 8	Indigenous Drama ( <i>The Rez Sisters</i> )	
November 26		cuPortfolio Annotated Bibliography Reflection
November 22	Staging Blackness ( <i>Harlem Duet</i> )	
December 3		Final paper
December 6/8	Exam Review	
December 10		cuPortfolio (2 pages) Drama vocabulary; Course overview

**Evaluation:****Character Study (15%) Due October 15, on Brightspace (11:55 p.m.)**

This assignment will provide you with early feedback on the course. It is a short writing assignment intended to help you focus and develop your skills of analysis and academic writing. Choose one character to focus your attention from one of the plays we've studied, including *Oedipus*, *The Rover*, or *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

You will write a brief description and detailed analysis of one of the characters. In no more than 2 double-spaced pages discuss the function of one of the characters and analyze their importance to the narrative. Here are some prompt questions to help you focus your analysis:

What is their purpose? Are they tragic or comic figures? How do they relate to the other characters? Are they a protagonist/antagonist? How do they advance the narrative? Don't forget to examine the details about them such as their class and/or gender. How do these details contribute to your understanding of their importance to the story being represented?

NOTE: When writing analysis, the most important aspect of your examination should be on questions that answer 'why' something happens.

### **cuPortfolio reflections (20%) Due various dates (check Brightspace)**

You will be expected to create and maintain your own portfolio on cuPortfolio. This platform will be set up, and a tutorial on how to use it will happen at the beginning of the term. There are also instructions on the EDC website for how to set up. More on this will be discussed at our first online meeting. This tool allows you to track your progress throughout the term. A series of prompts will be provided. You will submit your portfolios once at the beginning of the term, twice through the term, and then a final one at the end of the term, for a total of **4 pages** in your collection, each worth 5%. Prompt questions will be provided on Brightspace.

### **Annotated Bibliography (20%) Due November 5 on Brightspace (11:55 p.m.)**

This assignment is the foundation of your final paper. From the list of essay topics provided, you will present a proposal for your final research paper that includes a thesis statement (argument), and a list of **4 - 5** research source citations that you will use as evidence to support your argument. Each citation will be properly annotated in **MLA format\*** and will contain a **brief** summary of each article used, plus a careful explanation of how each resource supports your position, along with how you will use it in your paper. Your summary should be no more than 2 or 3 sentences, followed by a much more developed analysis that explains the significance of the source in relation to your argument. We will go over how to do an annotated bibliography in class, but here is also a very good resource to help you:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/1/>  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

### **Research paper (25%)**

This is a formal writing assignment. Using feedback from the thesis/annotated bibliography assignment, students will present a polished, carefully crafted final paper of **7 - 9** pages (excluding Works Cited page) in **MLA format** with a coherent, arguable thesis, supported by evidence from the text and scholarly sources, a conclusion that responds to and resolves the argument. The most important aspect of your paper is **critical analysis**; in other words, not just what happens in the play you are examining, but most importantly, why it happens. As well, elements of writing such as rich vocabulary, proper use of citation style, correct punctuation and grammar, and sentence structure (syntax) will be taken into account. Further, structural elements, such as the logical progression of ideas that form the basis of your argument, will be expected. This assignment is your opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in the course. Don't be afraid to demonstrate your excitement about your discoveries!

### **Final Exam (20%)**

A formal exam will happen at the end of the term. Stay tuned for details. This will be an open-book exam and will be discussed in detail prior to the end of term.

**Late Policy:** Assignments must be submitted online through Brightspace to receive full marks. There will be **no extensions** granted unless discussed prior to the due date with the instructor. In the case where illness prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, you will have a grace period of no more than 7 days and you must inform your instructor prior to the deadline. Assignments more than 7 days late will NOT be accepted, with the exception of those for which alternate arrangements have been made.

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that all assignments are submitted on time. Keep a backup copy that can be submitted upon request in the event of a lost or misplaced assignment.**

**All assignments will be submitted electronically through Brightspace.**

**NOTE:** All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to pass the course. Failure to hand in all assignments may result in a grade of “F”.

**Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.**

## **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** 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. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details [click here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

### Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

## Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

## Reading Schedule\*

September 8	<b>Intro to class</b> Exploring the syllabus; what are the expectations of the course
September 13/15	<b>cuPortfolio tutorial</b> (September 13) we will show you how to upload the template for your own pages in cuPortfolio; (September 15) lecture on theatre in Ancient Greece (with pictures!)
September 20/22	<b><i>Oedipus: defining tragedy</i></b>
September 27/29	<b>Restoration drama</b> <b><i>The Rover</i></b>
October 4/6	<b><i>The Rover: Commedia dell'Arte</i></b>
October 11/13	<b>Comedy of Manners: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i></b> <b>*no class October 11 (Thanksgiving)</b>
October 18/20	<b>Oct 18: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i></b> <b>Oct 20: MLA Workshop</b>
October 25/27	<b>Fall reading week – no classes</b>
November 1/3	<b>American Realism: <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i></b>
November 8/10	<b>Nov 8: <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i></b> <b>Nov 10: Indigenous Drama <i>Rez Sisters</i></b>
November 15/17	<b><i>Rez Sisters</i></b>
November 22/24	<b>Nov 24 – <i>Harlem Duet</i></b>
November 29/December 1	<b>Staging Blackness</b>
December 6/8	<b>Exam Review</b>

**\*Subject to change. Check regularly on Brightspace for changes and/or additions to materials**