

**Carleton University  
Department of English  
Fall 2016**

**ENGL 2104 A Drama Workshop**

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2000 (no longer offered)

Prerequisite: second-year standing

**Monday 11:35-2:25**

**Location:** SA 403

**Instructor:** Sarah McVie

**Office:** 1914DT

**Hours:** TBD

**Email:** Sarah.McVie@carleton.ca

## The Actor's Craft: From Text to Performance

### Course Description:

What is the actor's craft? How has it developed since the birth of Western theatre? Students in this course will be given the opportunity to explore their own ability to perform as they come to understand the essential skills needed to portray a role for an audience. The 'actor's tool kit' will be introduced through hands on exercises aimed to develop voice, movement, creative impulse and imaginative exploration. Students will put theory into practice working with classical and contemporary texts. One off site visit will be required to attend a professional theatre production. Attendance is very important for this course due to the practical nature of the workshop. Commitment to the ensemble is a part of the actor's duties and therefore punctuality is expected and will be reflected in the final grade.

### Course Evaluation

Assignment	Description	Value	Due
Participation	Attendance, group work, engagement in class activities, participation in class discussions. Marks will be deducted for the use of devices in class unless done with special permission by the instructor. Scripts must be printed in hard copy and brought to class. Devices are not suitable for scene work or in class exercises.	25%	On-going
Actor's journal	Keep a record of your reflections on the course work and answer the weekly journal question as outlined on the	30%	Submission #1 due October 7 <sup>th</sup>

	“Journal Assignment Outline” posted on CuLearn		Submission #2 due on December 9 <sup>th</sup> . All journals must be submitted on CuLearn and the file named with the students last name and assignment name.
Soliloquy	Prepare and perform a soliloquy from a Shakespeare play from the selection offered on the “Soliloquy Assignment Outline” posted on CuLearn	15%	October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Scene	Prepare and perform a scene from <i>Hedda Gabler</i> with your group members. For details on assessment please refer to the “Scene Study Outline” posted on CuLearn.	15%	December 9th
Play review	Write an analysis and review (4-6 pages) of a professional theatre production you attended during the fall term. Using appropriate theatre language**, express your critical assessment of the production. Include the ticket stub (or photo copy) with your paper. Submit this paper to the English Department Main Office Drop Box, 18 <sup>th</sup> floor in Dunton Tower by December 9 <sup>th</sup> .	15%	November 14th

\*Students are encouraged to attend a live theatre production prior to our first class on September 12th.

\*\*Please use to *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays* for guidance on how to discuss theatre practice and for a comprehensive glossary of theatre terms.

\*\*\*Students are expected to do up to 4 hours per week of work related to the course content, including; research, reading, creative writing and rehearsal.

Week 1 September 12th	<p>Introduction to course outline with a detailed description of assignments</p> <p>Topic: Ensemble work</p> <p>Assignment: Actor’s journal (part 1 due October 7<sup>th</sup>) Assignment: Soliloquy (due October 24th)</p> <p>Reading: <i>Shakespearean play based on your chosen soliloquy.</i></p>
Week 2 September 19th	Topic: Playing Shakespeare and “The Code”

	Reading: “The Actor and the Text” by Cecily Barry (available on ARES ID #120946 and #120947)
Week 3 September 26th	Topic: The Physical Force of Language Vocal technique for the stage.  Due: Quiz (mark will contribute to participation grade.)
Week 4 October 3rd	Topic: Theatre Criticism  Assignment: Play Review (due November 14 <sup>th</sup> )  Due: Journal Entries 1-4 (due October 7 <sup>th</sup> on CuLearn)
October 10th	Thanksgiving–no class
Week 5 October 17th	Topic: The well-made play  Assignment: Scene from <i>Hedda Gabler</i> by Henrik Ibsen Reading: <i>Hedda Gabler</i>  Due: Final performance of soliloquy
October 24th	Fall break–no class
Week 6 October 31st	Topic: Naturalism and Subtext Stanislavsky and ‘The System’  Group work: scenes from <i>Hedda Gabler</i>
Week 7 November 7th	Topic: Script Analysis Facts and Questions: table work on <i>Hedda Gabler</i>
Week 8 November 14th	Topic: Blocking for the stage Scene work: actions, intensions and obstacles  Due: Play Review
Week 9 November 21rd	Scene Work
Week 10 November 28th	Topic: Preparing for Performance Rehearsal and text work Due: lines memorized for scene
Week 11 December 5th	Scene Work
Week 12 December 9th	Final performance of scenes from <i>Hedda Gabler</i> .

	Due: Actor's journal (to be submitted on CuLearn)
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**Required texts:**

Lennard, John and Mary Luckhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*. New York, Oxford University Press. 2002. Print. ISBN 978-0-19-870070-8

(Available at Haven Books)

Ibsen, Henrik. *Four Major Plays: Volume 1*. Signet Classics. Reissue edition, 2006 ISBN-13: 978-0451530226

Recommended Readings are available on ARES through CuLearn

**A note on participation:** Participation in class is mandatory. You must present a valid doctor's note if you are going to miss class. Please inform me if you are struggling with any medical issues as accommodations can be made early on in the term. This course is open to every level of experience in drama and all students will be assessed on their willingness to learn as well as the success of their attempts. The readings posted on Ares will enrich your experience of this course. Active listening and engagement with the content is also considered part of your grade. Theatre is a collaborative art and requires a desire to investigate the human condition, a task that necessitates energy and drive. Be curious, ask questions and have fun!

**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 more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**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 see the [Student Guide](#).

**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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC,

meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

## **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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 serious offence, which 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 a final grade of “F” for the course.