

**Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of English**

ENGL 2104 A&B: Drama Workshop

Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the Department
Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2000 (no longer offered)

Tuesdays 2:30pm-5:30pm (A) and 5:30pm-8:30pm (B)

Location: Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre

Instructor: Mary Ellis

Email: Mary.Ellis@carleton.ca

Office: 1914DT

Office Hours: TBD, by appointment only

The Actor's Craft: From Text to Performance

Course Description:

What is the actor's craft? Students in this course will be given the opportunity to explore their 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 skills in voice, movement, creative impulse, and imaginative exploration. Students will put theory into practice, working with both classical and modern texts. Attendance is extremely important for this course, due to the practical nature of the workshop. Commitment to the ensemble is a vital part of the actor's duties, therefore punctuality and participation are crucial, and will be reflected in the final grade.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will have a greater understanding and appreciation of the actor's craft, through the exploration of the creative and collaborative process of rehearsal and performance, the analysis of both classical and modern text, and exercises in voice, movement, and character development.

Required Text:

Ibsen, Henrik. *Four Major Plays: Volume 1*. Signet Classics. Reissue edition, 2006
ISBN 13: 978-0451530226 (Available at Haven Books)

Suggested Reading:

Barton, John. *Playing Shakespeare*. Anchor Books. ISBN 0-385-72085-8
Crystal, Ben. *Shakespeare on Toast*. Icon Books. ISBN 978-184831-054-4
Bruder, Melissa. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*. Vintage. ISBN 0-394-74412-8

Course Calendar:

Week One – September 10

Introduction to course outline, with detailed description of assignments.

Topic: Ensemble work, an introduction to the actor's craft, and Shakespeare's sonnets

Assign: Sonnet Ensemble (due October 1st). Groups and sonnets will be chosen.

Suggested Reading: "Using the Sonnets" from *Playing Shakespeare* by John Barton

Week Two - September 17th

Topic: Performing the Sonnets

Practical vocal and physical exercises to prepare for performance

Text analysis of the sonnets, identifying literary devices

Week Three - September 24th

Due: Written Sonnet Analysis

Topic: The Physical Force of Language

Vocal and physical technique for the stage

Rehearsal of Sonnet Ensemble – students must have lines memorized

Week Four - October 1st

Due: Sonnet Ensemble Presentation

Performance feedback

Assign: Shakespeare Soliloquy (due October 29). Final decision on soliloquy choices.

Reading: Shakespeare play based on your chosen soliloquy

Week Five – October 8th

Topic: Character and Text in Shakespeare's Soliloquys

Introduction to assigned soliloquys

Shakespearean text analysis exercises, identifying literary devices

Suggested Reading: "Language and Character" from *Playing Shakespeare* by John Barton

Week Six - October 15th

Due: Written Soliloquy Analysis

Rehearsal of Soliloquys - students must have lines memorized

Text and character exercises

October 21 to 25 – Fall break

Week Seven - October 29th

Due: Shakespeare Soliloquy Presentation

Performance feedback

Assign: Scenes from *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen (due November 26)

Reading: *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen

Week Eight - November 5th

Topic: Early Realism – Ibsen, Stanislavsky and historical context

First read of scenes from *Hedda Gabler*

Week Nine - November 12th

Topic: Script analysis - table work on *Hedda Gabler*

Facts and Questions

Character objectives, actions and obstacles

Week Ten - November 19th

Due: Written Character Analysis for *Hedda Gabler* character

Topic: Blocking for the stage

Blocking of scenes from *Hedda Gabler*

Rehearsal of scenes - students must have lines memorized

Week Eleven - November 26th

Due: *Hedda Gabler* Scene Presentation

Performance feedback

Week Twelve - December 3rd

In-class written reflections and discussion on the work this term

Evaluation:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Due</u>
Participation	Attendance, dedication to group work, engagement in class activities and discussions. Marks will be deducted for the use of devices in class, unless with permission of the instructor. Scripts must be printed in hard copy and brought to class. Please see notes below.	15%	Ongoing
Sonnet Analysis	A written analysis of your sonnet, identifying the literary devices discussed in class and outlined on CuLearn. A paraphrased version of your sonnet must be included.	10%	September 24
Sonnet Ensemble	A small group (2 or 3) exercise involving choral speaking and spatial awareness. Investigate the meaning and potential of a Shakespearean sonnet, then collaborate with your group to present the sonnet in class.	15%	October 1
Soliloquy Analysis	A written analysis of your soliloquy, identifying the literary devices and answering the questions outlined on CuLearn.	10%	October 15
Soliloquy	Prepare and perform a soliloquy from a Shakespeare play from the selection offered on the Soliloquy Assignment Outline on CuLearn, or of your own choice, approved by the instructor.	20%	October 29
Character Analysis	A written (maximum 2-page) analysis of your character from your <i>Hedda Gabler</i> scene, based on a list of questions posted on CuLearn.	15%	November 19
Scene	Prepare and perform a scene from Ibsen's <i>Hedda Gabler</i> , approved by the instructor, in collaboration with your scene partners. Details on assessment will be posted in the Scene Assignment Outline on CuLearn.	15%	November 26

A Note on Participation and Evaluation:

Participation in class is mandatory, as is attendance and punctuality. You must contact the instructor by email if you are going to miss class. Please inform me if you are dealing with any medical issues so that accommodations can be made. This course is open to every level of experience in drama, and students will be assessed on their willingness to learn, their progress over the semester, as well as the success of their attempts. Active listening and engagement are crucial, and will be considered in grading. Theatre is a collaborative art, and requires curiosity and a desire to investigate the human condition, a task that necessitates energy, drive and commitment. Students will be graded on participation using the following criteria –

The student displays active listening and responsiveness, and engages in class activities with energy and enthusiasm.

The student displays curiosity, a willingness to take risks and to thoroughly investigate challenging work.

The student displays focus, as well as energy, drive and a personal commitment to the work.

The student displays a respectful and collaborative attitude at all times.

The student comes to class ready to work, displaying punctuality and preparedness.

Details on the assessment formats for each of the assignments will be posted on CuLearn.

With regard to evaluation, deadlines for presentations and for written work will be strictly enforced. If presentations or written work are late, barring any unforeseen or extreme circumstances, there will be a 50% deduction in the grade. For written work, hard or electronic copies are acceptable, and must be submitted by the end of day on the due date. Written work will be returned the week after the due date.

It is **imperative** that students use hard copies of scripts – for sonnets, soliloquys, and scenes - in class. The use of phones and laptops for rehearsal will not be permitted. Please make sure that you have a pen or pencil in order to make notes in your scripts.

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.” 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 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/>

Requests 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

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor

your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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 its 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline