

**Carleton University
Winter 2021
Department of English**

**ENGL 3904 A: *Intermediate Drama Workshop*
*Topic: 20thC Theatre Scene Study***

**Prerequisites: ENGL 2104 or permission of the Department.
Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2001 (no longer offered).**

**Format: Synchronous
Mondays / 9:05am – 11:55am
Location: *Online over Zoom***

**Instructor: Rebecca Benson
Email: rebecca.benson@carleton.ca
Phone: 613-864-5344
Office Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Fridays or by appointment**

I. Course description:

Following on from Drama Workshop's introduction to the actor's craft, Intermediate Drama workshop continues to approach dramatic analysis from the actor's perspective. This highly practical course acquaints students with 20th and 21st C theatre and the influence of unique social contexts that gave rise to new genres. Through an embodied approach, students uncover the demands that these different genres place on the actor. Exploring examples of Social Realism, Epic Theatre, Theatre of the Absurd, and Post-Dramatic theatre, students will uncover each genre's historical context and contemporary relevance through in-class readings, discussions, monologue/scene studies, and viewing recorded productions. Students will discover their own connection to contemporary theatre and confront the question: how we can make theatre that responds to our current social context?

Texts will be selected from works in the modern and contemporary Western Theatre canon.

In the spirit of being innovative in the way that live performance always demands, this course will continue online with the help of the Zoom video conferencing platform. The instructor for this course has been continuing to teach, direct, act and facilitate the creation of new work online since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, and is excited to offer an opportunity for students to connect with one another and with their creative selves.

Due to the practical nature of this course, attendance and participation is highly weighted. Though we may not spend each full class-time in synchronous learning, students will need to be available during the scheduled class hours. (Monday 9:05-11:55am EST)

Attendance of all lectures/workshops is required.

Because this is a project-based course and there will be group work, students will be relying on one another to be present, prepared and committed. Rehearsals may often take place during class time, but some rehearsal time outside of scheduled class time will also be necessary.

Learning objectives:

- To develop techniques and abilities in characterization, scene and text analysis, rehearsal and performance.
- To gain an understanding of the social contexts which gave rise to selected genres in 20th and 21st C Theatre, and the relationship between social context and genre
- to identify textual and structural elements of Social Realism, Epic theatre, Theatre of the Absurd, and Post-Dramatic theatre

II. Texts:

Required Texts:

TBA

Recommended Reading:

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

III. Evaluation: [SEP]

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process. Participation in class discussions and exercises.		15%
Journal	A written record of the student's learning journey throughout the course. Use this to record exercises, personal reflections on exercises, feedback, thoughts, ideas, comments by others from group discussions, questions, anything related to the course, including a reflection on the process and final product of the collective. This journal will also include written responses to assigned questions on the readings in the course pack. Submissions may be electronic or hand written in a notebook.	A journal entry for each class is due 24 hours after each class – submitted electronically	25%
Scene Study 1	Written preparation submitted, scene memorized and performed.	February 10th	20%
Scene Study 2	Written preparation submitted, scene memorized and performed.	March 16 th	20%
Scene Study 3	Written preparation submitted, scene memorized and performed.	April 12 th	20%

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.

IV. Course Calendar *:

WEEK 1	Jan. 11	Introduction to course – Intro to 20 th C Theatre – Social Realism
WEEK 2	Jan. 18	Practical Acting skills – Text analysis – assignments for Scene

		Study 1
WEEK 3	Jan. 25	Introduction to Brecht
WEEK 4	Feb 1	Practical Acting skills – Epic theatre technique workshop – rehearsal and coaching
WEEK 5	Feb 8	Scene Study 1 – Brecht presentations Introduction to Absurdism – assignments for Scene Study 2
	Feb. 15	Winter Break – No class
WEEK 6	Feb.22	Absurdism – Becket, Sarte, Ionesco - Rehearsal
WEEK 7	Mar. 1	Absurdism - Rehearsal with coaching
WEEK 8	Mar. 8	Scene Study 2 – Absurdism scene Presentations Introduction to Contemporary drama and Post- dramatic theatre
WEEK 9	Mar. 15	Further discussion of Post dramatic theatre – responding to current social context – pandemic theatre, digital theatre, radio theatre – Scene assignments for Scene study 3 -
WEEK 10	Mar. 22	Practical acting skills – rehearsal
WEEK 11	Mar. 29	Practical acting skills – rehearsal w/ coaching
WEEK 12	April 5	Practical acting skills – rehearsal w/ coaching
WEEK 13	April 12	Scene Study 3 – Presentations

Course Calendar is subject to changes. Final Calendar will be provided at the first class.

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 by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

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: 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](#).

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 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 must 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>