

**Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English**

**ENGL 3904 A: *Intermediate Drama Workshop*
*Topic: Post-dramatic Text in Performance***

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

**Tuesdays / 14:35 – 17:25
Location: LA B243**

**Instructor: Rebecca Benson
Email: rebecca.benson@carleton.ca
Office: 1914DT
Phone: 613-520-2310 ext. 2307
Office Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Tuesdays or by appointment**

I. Course description:

This highly practical course gives students acquaints the students with post-dramatic theatre through creative interpretation, research, analysis and performance of excerpts from Caryl Churchill's play *Love and Information*. Postdramatic Theatre is a term coined by theatre researcher Hans-Thies Lehmann referring to a set of conventions emerging in new theatrical work in the latter part of the 20thC. As theatre evolves to reflect contemporary culture, a new theatre of image and sound has emerged shifting away from the traditional dramatic text. Churchill's play provides a dynamic example to explore.

Attendance of all lectures/workshops is required. Some rehearsal time outside of scheduled class time will be necessary.

Learning objectives:

- To develop techniques and abilities in characterization, scene and text analysis, collaborative creation and rehearsal, ensemble performance.
- To become familiar with post-dramatic theatre and its characteristics, development and relevance through embodiment and analysis of the text.

II. Preclusions:

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2001 (no longer offered).

III. Texts:

- Required Texts (available at Haven Books):
 - Churchill, Caryl. *Love and Information*. Nick Hern Books, London, 2012. Print.
 - Course Pack.
- Suggested Text (available at Haven Books):
 - Lennard, John, and Mary Luckhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*. New York, Oxford, 2002. Print.

IV. Evaluation:

Participation – 20%

Attendance, participation in class discussions and exercises

Preparation – 35%

Completed preparatory assignments (Research and Analysis)(10% and 15%), Off-book and prepared as demonstrated in Open Rehearsal (10%)

Process – 25%

Contribution to collaborative rehearsal process as observed in class and in Open Rehearsal (10%), Journals (reflection on personal process) (15%)

Performance – 20%

Characterization, concentration, commitment, understanding of the scene and text

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process. Participation in class discussions and exercises.		20%
Research Assignment	A short group presentation on one of the following topics: playwright Caryl Churchill, Post-dramatic theatre, the rise of information technology, Love in the Information Age.	In class January 23 rd	10%
Journal	A written record of student's learning journey throughout the course. Use this to record exercises, reflections on personal experience of exercises, feedback,	February 13 th and April 10 th	15%

	thoughts, ideas, comments by others from group discussions, questions, anything related to the course. Submissions may be electronic or printed and bound. .		
Text Analysis	A written assignment analyzing character, actions, transitions and scene structure for partner/group scene. Students will be assessed on the detail and depth of their analysis. Assignment submissions must be in ink, legibly written or typed, and be printed and bound.	February 27 th	15%
Open Rehearsal	An opportunity for assessment of the student's preparation (off-book for rehearsal, knowledge of the scene, play) and process (level of commitment and engagement in the rehearsal process, application of relevant acting techniques explored in class work to inform their choices in rehearsal) in their scene work.	March 13 th	20%
Performance	Performance in selections of Love and Information by Caryl Churchill. Students are assessed on their characterization, concentration, commitment, and understanding of the scene and text.	TBD April 6-8th	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.

V. Course Calendar *:

WEEK 1	Jan. 9	Discussion: Building Ensemble and the Actor's Toolkit Theatre games, vocal exercises
WEEK 2	Jan. 16	Skill building workshop: Acting – Table Read
WEEK 3	Jan. 23	Discussion: Churchill, Genre and Creation of Meaning
WEEK 4	Jan 30	Skill building workshop: Acting
WEEK 5	Feb 6	Discussion: Text Analysis and the unit of action Assign: Scene Analysis Assignment
WEEK 6	Feb. 13	Skill building workshop: Acting
	Feb. 20	Winter Break – No class
WEEK 7	Feb. 27	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 8	Mar. 6	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 9	Mar. 13	Open Rehearsal for Evaluation

WEEK 10	Mar. 20	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 11	Mar. 27	Work session/ Rehearsal
WEEK 12	April 3	Performance **
WEEK 13	April 10	Post-Mortem on project and process

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

**We will discuss the date and time for the final performance as this is a collaboration with one other course. Show date is likely to be during the weekend of April 6-8.

Please Note: Canadian Director Robert Lepage will be visiting Carleton for a discussion of his production, 887, playing at the National Arts Centre, on January 12th in the Discovery Centre of the MacOdrum Library, room 482, 2 - 4 p.m. Students are strongly encouraged to attend.

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 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.

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 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).