

Carleton University
Winter 2019
Department of English

ENGL 3904 A: *Intermediate Drama Workshop*
Topic: Devised Theatre in Performance

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

Mondays / 16:05 – 18:55
Location: *Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, Room 17*
355 Cooper Street

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

I. Course description:

This highly practical course will allow students to investigate the process of creating Devised Theatre, through research, critical analysis and practice. Students will collaborate on creating an original piece of site-specific theatre in the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre. Students will develop their actor's tool kit, research the devising methods of established companies, investigate a variety of texts including new works by creative writing students in ENGL 3915A: Writing for the Theatre, and devise theatrical scenes to be woven together for a performance at the end of the term. The course will culminate in a presentation of the created piece for an invited audience.

Attendance of all lectures/workshops is required.


Because this is a project-based course and there will be extensive group work, students will be relying on one another to be present, prepared and committed. Rehearsals will mainly 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, collaborative creation, rehearsal and ensemble performance.
- To gain an understanding of the process and practice of devised theatre, its place in theatrical history, and knowledge of companies and artists dedicated to this method of creating new work

II. Texts:

- Required Texts (available at Haven Books):
 - Course Pack.

III. Evaluation: 

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process. Participation in class discussions and exercises.		15%
Research Assignment	A short group presentation on a Contemporary theatre company that devises its own work covering their history, mandate, process and works.	In class January 28 th	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.	Final day of classes	25%
Text Analysis	A written assignment analyzing character, actions, transitions and scene structure of an assigned scene. Students will be assessed on the detail and depth of their analysis.	February 11th	10%

Open Rehearsal	An opportunity for assessment of the student's preparation (off-book for rehearsal, knowledge of the scene) and process (level of commitment, engagement and collaboration in the rehearsal process, application of relevant acting techniques explored in class work to inform their choices in rehearsal) in their scene work.	March 11 th and 18 th	15%
Performance	Perform in the piece of site-specific theatre created as part of the course. Students are assessed on their characterization, concentration, commitment, and understanding of the scene and text.	TBD April 5-6th	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. 6	Discussion: Collective Creation and Devised Theatre Assign: Research Project – Group presentations
WEEK 2	Jan. 13	Skill building workshop
WEEK 3	Jan. 20	Discussion: Text Analysis and the unit of action Assign: Scene Analysis Assignment
WEEK 4	Jan 27	Group Presentations
WEEK 5	Feb 3	Discussion: Course Pack Readings Skill Building workshop
WEEK 6	Feb. 10	Skill building workshop
	Feb. 17	Winter Break – No class
WEEK 7	Feb. 24	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 8	Mar. 2	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 9	Mar. 9	Collaborative work session: Rehearsal
WEEK 10	Mar. 16	Open Rehearsal for Evaluation
WEEK 11	Mar. 23	Work session/ Rehearsal
WEEK 12	Mar. 30	Tech Rehearsal and Performance ** likely April 3 and 4
WEEK 13	April 6	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. Show date is likely to be during the weekend of April 3-4, 2020.

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.

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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/>

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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

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. For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre Website: 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-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>