

**Carleton University
Winter 2022
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).**

**Mondays / 9:05am – 11:55am
Location: *Fellowship Hall*
*Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre***

**Instructor: Rebecca Benson
Email: rebecca.benson@carleton.ca
Phone: 613-864-5344**

Office Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Fridays over Zoom 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 and monologue/scene studies. 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.

Due to the practical nature of this course, attendance and participation is highly weighted. **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 identify textual and structural elements of Social Realism, Epic theatre, Theatre of the Absurd, and Post-Dramatic theatre
- To develop techniques and abilities in text and scene analysis from the actor's perspective
- To develop techniques and abilities in characterization, 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

II. Texts:

Required Texts:

- Brecht, Bertold. ***Mother Courage*** – PDF (Available online)
- Stoppard, Tom. ***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead***. New York, Grove_Weidenfeld, 1967. Print. *Note: A later edition is fine as well.
- Clements, Marie. ***Burning Vision***. Vancouver, Talonbooks, 2003. Print. (Available at **Haven Books**, Ottawa)

Recommended Reading:

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

III. Evaluation:

	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 assigned readings and/or work done in class. Submissions must be electronic.	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 14th	15%
Scene Study 2	Written preparation submitted, scene memorized and performed.	March 14 th	20%
Scene Study 3	Written preparation submitted, scene memorized and performed.	April 11th	25%

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. 10	Introduction to course – Intro to 20 th C Theatre – evolution of genres with focus on Social context – how were theatre artists responding to their social context – Intro to Social Realism
WEEK 2	Jan. 17	Practical Acting skills – Reading of Social Realism scenes – Text analysis – Scene assignments for Brecht scene study

WEEK 3	Jan. 24	Introduction to Brecht – Discussion of Brecht as artist, activist, theoretician – Political/social context – works – his company – his genre Epic Theatre – demands on the actors in Epic theatre
WEEK 4	Jan 31	Practical Acting skills — Epic theatre technique workshop – Read Scenes
WEEK 5	Feb 7	Rehearsal of scenes from Mother Courage with coaching
WEEK 6	Feb. 14	Scene Study 1 – Scene presentations from Mother Courage Introduction to Absurdist Theatre – scene assignments for Absurdist Scene Study
	Feb.21	Winter Break – No class
WEEK 7	Feb. 28	Absurdist – Becket, Sartre, Ionesco – Read examples of Absurdist – Read and rehearse Stoppard scenes
WEEK 8	Mar. 7	Absurdist Theatre: Rehearsal of scenes with coaching
WEEK 9	Mar. 14	Scene Study 2 – Scene Presentations from R&G Are Dead Introduction to Contemporary drama and Post- dramatic theatre
WEEK 10	Mar. 21	Further discussion of Post dramatic theatre – lecture/discussion on responding to current social context – pandemic theatre, digital theatre, radio theatre - Scene Assignments for Scene Study 3
WEEK 11	Mar. 28	Practical acting skills – read Section of Burning Vision - Scenes rehearsal
WEEK 12	April 4	Practical acting skills – rehearsal w/ coaching
WEEK 13	April 11	Scene Study 3 – Scene Presentations from Burning Vision

*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, ^[1]_{SEP} and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source; ^[1]_{SEP}
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by ^[1]_{SEP} someone else; ^[1]_{SEP}
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material,

- concepts, or ideas without appropriate ^{[[SEP]]}acknowledgment in any academic assignment; ^{[[SEP]]}
- using another's data or research findings; ^{[[SEP]]}
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use ^{[[SEP]]}quotation marks; ^{[[SEP]]}
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission ^{[[SEP]]}of the course instructor in which the submission occurs." ^{[[SEP]]}

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. ^{[[SEP]]}

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

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/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 will 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>