

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2017**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL 4605A — Theatre Production Seminar**

*Prerequisite(s): ENGL 3904 or permission of the Department; and prior or concurrent participation in a Sock 'n' Buskin production*

Thursday: 2:35-5:25pm

Classroom: PA 115

*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Sarah McVie

Office: DT 1914

Office Hours: 10AM-1PM, Wednesdays, or by appointment

Email: sarahmcvie@cunet.carleton.ca

### **Direction and Dramaturgy: Crafting Theatrical Moments**

The theatre director and dramaturge are largely twentieth-century constructs that have become prevalent in contemporary theatre creation. This course will give students the opportunity to explore the director's craft; from extensive research related to the play to practical decisions of how to rehearse and prepare a piece of theatre for performance. Students will create a Director's Concept and stage a selected scene from a play. Dramaturgy will be examined and practiced in a collective creation project to be presented at the end of the term.

### **Course Objective**

Students will leave this course with an appreciation for the director's role and the practical experience of staging a piece of theatre. **Process** will be the central focus, allowing each student to devise a unique approach to creative leadership based on historical and contemporary models of theatre practice.

### **Course Assessment**

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Attendance and commitment to process. Each student will be responsible for building a portfolio on cuPortfolio that contains coursework, assignments and reflects your personal learning journey throughout the term.		15%

Theatre Practice	Create a page for your CuPortfolio on theatre practice based on readings and discussion in class.	January 19th	10%
Theatre Profile	Research an established theatre director and present your findings to the class. Create a page on your CuPortfolio outlining the subject's body of work.	February 9th	20%
Director's Concept	Create a director's concept for a selected play. Lead a "mock rehearsal" in front of your peers and instructor in class. Submit a portfolio that outlines your concept in detail. It will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An essay on your initial impressions and the development of your concept</li> <li>b) A rehearsal plan</li> <li>c) A detailed scene breakdown</li> <li>d) A design concept</li> </ul>	Concept and plan due March 2nd Mock rehearsal done by April 6th	30%
Collective Creation Project	Participate as a creative collaborator for a devised piece of theatre. Outline your contribution on your CuPortfolio.	April 6th	25%

### Course Outline

WEEK 1	Jan. 5	Discussion: Theatre Practice Assign: CuPortfolio Theatre Practice Page
WEEK 2	Jan. 12	Discussion: The Director's Craft Assign: CuPortfolio Theatre Profile Page
WEEK 3	Jan. 19	Discussion: Interpreting texts Assign: Director's Concept
WEEK 4	Jan. 26	Discussion: Dramaturgy
WEEK 5	Feb. 2	Discussion: Design
WEEK 6	Feb. 9	Discussion: Acting
WEEK 7	Feb. 16	Discussion: Rehearsals
WEEK 8	Mar. 2	Due: Director's Concept/mock rehearsal #1
WEEK 9	Mar. 9	Collaborative work session/mock rehearsals #2
WEEK 10	Mar. 16	Collaborative work session/mock rehearsals #3
WEEK 11	Mar. 23	Collaborative work session/mock rehearsal #4
WEEK 12	Mar. 30	Finalize and present collective creation project.
WEEK 13	April 6	Post-Mortem on collective collaboration and Director's Concept project.

## Suggested texts:

*Theatre of the Unimpressed*, Jordan Tannahill

*A Director Prepares*, Anne Bogart

*Different Every Night*, Mike Alfreds

*The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*, Lennard, John, and Mary Luckhurst

## REQUEST 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 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](mailto: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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

## PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional 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, which 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 a final grade of "F" for the course.