

Carleton University  
Winter 2018  
Department of English

**ENGL 4605 A: *Theatre Production Seminar***  
***Topic: Direction and Dramaturgy: Crafting Theatrical Moments***

*Prerequisites: ENGL 3904 or permission of the department;  
and prior or concurrent participation in a Sock 'n' Buskin production.*

**Fridays / 11:35 – 14:25**  
**Location: Canal Building 2202**

**Instructor: Rebecca Benson**  
**Email: rebecca.benson@carleton.ca**  
**Office: 1914DT**  
**Phone: 613-520-2310 ext. 2307**  
**Office Hours: 12:00-14:00 Tuesdays or by appointment**

## **I. Course description:**

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 in collaboration with designers and composers. Students will create a Director's Concept and stage a selected scene from Caryl Churchill's play *Love and Information*. Dramaturgy will be examined as part of the director's preparation in developing a concept prior to the rehearsal process. Students will have the unique experience of collaborating with design students from the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism under the teaching of Professor Yvan Cazabon as well as with Carleton Music students studying composition with Professor Jesse Stewart. Scenes will be presented for an audience at the end of term. Attendance of all lectures/workshops is required. Some rehearsal time outside of scheduled class time will be necessary.

### **Course Objective**

Students will leave this course with an appreciation for the director's roles as interpreter, creator, coach and collaborator through 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.

**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 required to attend.**

## II. Texts:

- Required Texts (available at Haven Books):
  - Churchill, Caryl. *Love and Information*. Nick Hern Books, London, 2012. Print.
  - Ball, David. *Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*. Southern Illinois University Press, 1983. Print.
  
- Suggested Text (available at Haven Books):
  - Lennard, John, and Mary Luckhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*. New York, Oxford, 2002. Print.

### 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.	Throughout the term	15%
Contemporary Theatre Practice	Create a page for your CuPortfolio on contemporary theatre practice based on readings and discussion in class.	January 26th	10%
Theatre Artist 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 16th	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An essay on your initial impressions, research and the development of your concept</li> <li>b) A rehearsal plan</li> <li>c) A detailed scene breakdown</li> <li>d) Design concept as developed with your collaborators (designer and composer)</li> </ol>	Concept and plan due March 9th  Mock rehearsal done by March 30th	30%
Scenes Project	Rehearse a scene for presentation as part of a performance of excerpts from Caryl Churchill's <i>Love and Information</i> . Outline your process on your CuPortflio.	April 6-8th	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.

## V. Course Calendar \*:

WEEK 1	Jan. 12	Discussion: Theatre Practice and The Director's Craft – <b>Discussion with Robert Lepage 2:00pm-4:00pm</b> Assign: CuPortfolio Theatre Practice Page
WEEK 2	Jan. 19	Discussion: Dramaturgy and the Director Assign: CuPortfolio Theatre Artist Profile Page
WEEK 3	Jan. 26	Discussion: Text Analysis and Interpretation Assign: Director's Concept
WEEK 4	Feb. 2	Discussion: Design – Set and Lights
WEEK 5	Feb. 9	Discussion: Music and Sound
WEEK 6	Feb. 16	Discussion: Acting / Theatre Artist Profile Presentations
No class	Feb 23	WINTER BREAK
WEEK 7	Mar. 2	Discussion: Rehearsals
WEEK 8	Mar. 9	Due: Director's Concept/mock rehearsal #1
WEEK 9	Mar. 16	Collaborative work session/mock rehearsals #2
WEEK 10	Mar. 23	Collaborative work session/mock rehearsals #3
No class	Mar. 30	UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY
WEEK 11	April 6	Finalize and present Scenes project***
WEEK 12**	April 11	Post-Mortem on presentation, collaboration and process

\* Course Calendar is subject to changes.

\*\* Week 12 – Class will be on Wednesday, April 11 – This last day of classes follows a Friday schedule. Please plan accordingly.

\*\*\*We will discuss the date and time for the final performance, as this is a joint performance with ENGL 3904. Show date will be during the weekend of April 6-8.

## 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](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).

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).