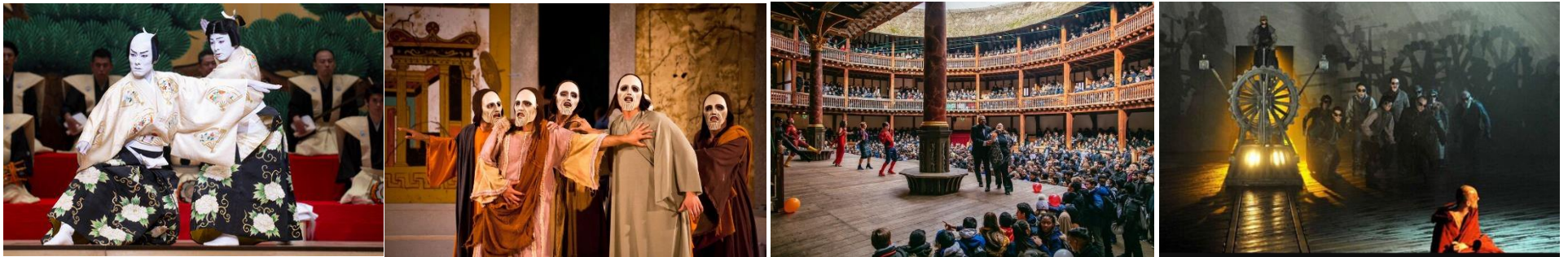


ENG 3117E: Genres/Forms/Modes

Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 & Thursdays 12:30-2:30

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Di Ponio

This course will have a focus on drama (literary form) and the genres – comedy, tragedy, naturalist, modernist, tragicomedy, Theatre of the Absurd, farce – in various modes of performance, including traditional theatre plays, opera, spoken word, musical theatre, performance art, recitation, mime, puppetry, multimedia, and happenings. This literary form will be examined from historical and cultural perspectives, from Greek Drama to Kabuki, Shakespeare to the historical avant-garde, the well-made play to contemporary performance pieces which challenge audience complacency, and will feature dramas from Europe, Asia, Oceania, North and South America, and Africa, informed by practitioners who have sought to develop a theatrical theory and aesthetic, often beyond the understanding of their age.



Studying forms, modes, and genres in a global context allows students to grasp more clearly the political and historical dimensions of aesthetic practices, and thus understand the implications of their usages in their own present cultural context. The aim is to develop a global, alongside a historical, consciousness of drama. This course is particularly concerned with texts that respond politically, aesthetically, and philosophical to supposed codified visions of the world. With this aim in stride, in addition to canonical dramatic texts, we will also study the theatre of Alfred Jarry, Antonin Artaud, Bertolt Brecht, Djuna Barnes, Samuel Beckett, and Jerzy Grotowski whose work resonates in that of Sarah Kane, Caryl Churchill, Paula Vogel, Suzan-Lori Parks, Tatsumi Hijikata, David Henry Hwang, to name but a few.

Questions? adiponi@uwo.ca