

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Drama Forms & Genres**

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

2400E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Amanda Di Ponio

**Instructor Email(s):** adiponi@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

(Western Calendar Copy) "A survey of forms of drama and an introduction to the main principles of dramatic art, with selected aspects of dramatic history and dramatic genres and their development. Includes study of plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Shakespeare, O'Neill, Brecht, Beckett and others."

In place of a traditional survey course, English 2400E is motivated by Experiential Learning (EL). Working in collaboration with two major Huron Underground Dramatic Society (HUDS) events, students have the opportunity to put into practice the theory informing the dramatic forms and genres studied. Students will both pen and perform play texts assuming roles such as producer, director, writer and/or dramaturge, set/costume/ lighting/ tech designer, choreographer, stage manager, backstage and crew, alongside supporting roles in publicity and marketing, if of interest. In the first term, students will work towards staging a Cabaret, and in the second, the HUDS musical. While students enrolled in the class do not need to be members of HUDS, they are certainly encouraged to do so as participation in the club will be registered on co-curricular records. Note that students will need to audition for performance and apply for production roles (dates TBD by HUDS Executive Team). As part of the course's EL opportunities, students will attend performances of professional and amateur theatre companies, beginning with a trip to Stratford to see Annie and Ransacking Troy, an all-day event planned for Thursday, September 25.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Engage with several dramatic forms and genres, including classic and modern, tragedy and comedy, musicals and participation-based/ social justice theatre
- Attend local professional and amateur theatre productions
- Participate in experiential learning by putting on performance events (i.e. Cabaret and musical production working alongside HUDS) from ideation to completion
- Communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
- Draft, review, and revise creative writing assignments (i.e. short sketch comedy and/or drama) in collaboration with peers
- Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing

- Research and engage with scholarly/critical texts to aid in the understanding of theatre production, including its history, and analysis alongside performance theory
- Incorporate evidence, from primary, secondary, and critical theory texts in essay writing to support claims that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments
- Apply principles of quotation integration using MLA documentation
- Collaborate with peers respectfully, fostering an environment that prompts healthy classroom culture alongside achieving individual and group goals

### **Textbooks and Course Materials:**

Erin Shields, *Ransacking Troy*. Playwrights Canada. Cost \$18.95

Available online via Course Readings:

Daniel Gerould, editor. *Theatre/Theory/Theatre: The Major Critical Texts from Aristotle and Zeami to Soyinka and Havel*. Applause, 2003.

Robert Knopf, editor. *Theatre of the Avant-Garde, 1890-1950: A Critical Anthology*. Yale UP, 2015.

W.B. Worthen, editor. *The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*. 6th ed., University of California, 2011. (Selections from this text are provided via Brightspace and Course Readings)

Additional texts and critical materials will be distributed to students throughout the term via OWL Brightspace, Course Readings, and the library catalogue. Second-hand or older editions are permitted.

This course has a required field component that costs \$80.

### **Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Performance Analysis: watch 4 plays, write an analysis on 2 (750 words each) 2 x 7.5%	various throughout the year	15
Cabaret: Written Scene (1,000 words) 10% + Production 15%		25
Director's Vision 30% + Pitch (Oral) 5%		35
Participation		20
Completion of Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) modules		5

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 18, 2025