

English 3771E 550  
Genres/Forms/Modes  
Fall/Winter 2022-23

Mondays 3:30-5:30pm & Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm W18

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Di Ponio

Office: A104 (Phone 519.438.7224 ext. 277)

Office Hours: Fridays 11:30-1:30pm and by appointment (Zoom)

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I reply to messages during business hours Monday to Friday (9-5); if you send a message Friday after 5pm, it will be replied to Monday morning.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will have a focus on drama (literary form) and the genres – comedy, tragedy, tragicomedy, farce – in various modes of performance, including traditional theatre plays, opera, spoken word, musical theatre, performance art, recitation, mime, clowning, 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.



The course features drama and performance 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, understanding 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, we will study classical, mainstream (realism, naturalism), and avant-grade (surrealism, expressionism, absurdism, actionism, experimental, participatory) movements. In addition to canonical dramatic texts, we will also study the theatre of Alfred Jarry, Antonin Artaud, and Jerzy Grotowski whose work resonates in that of Tatsumi Hijikata, Caryl Churchill, and Augusto Boal to name but a few.

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Read/ Analyze/ View dramatic texts and performance from a global, socio-cultural perspective, with an emphasis on performance practices in order to understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical substructures of the texts on the course
- Read/ Analyze/ Engage with primary and secondary performance theory written by practitioners and critics alike

- View recordings of live performances of professional theatre companies
- Place individual texts in their socio-historical and geographical contexts
- Recognize and understand the features of genres of comedy, tragedy, melodrama, tragicomedy, farce in various modes of performance, including traditional theatre plays, opera, spoken word, performance art, recitation, mime, puppetry, multimedia, and happenings over various movements - classical, naturalist, modernist, absurdist, etc.
- Work collaboratively with peers in two in-class “poor” theatre productions
- Attend a live theatre production at the Stratford Festival in the Fall 2022 term
- Communicate ideas effectively through readings, discussion, blogging, creative composition, and persuasive essays
- Analyze critical reception theory informing both performance (motivations, techniques) and audience reception
- Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing
- Construct strong thesis statements and structured arguments in persuasive essays which incorporate evidence, from both primary and secondary texts, in support of arguments
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, including those obtained through the Internet
- Incorporate evidence, from both primary, secondary, and critical theory texts in essay writing to support arguments that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text through use of summary, quotation, and paraphrase using correct MLA documentation

#### STRATFORD – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

Students enrolled in English 3771E (and those enrolled in English 2228F) will attend two performances at the Stratford Festival this season: Wole Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman* and William Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. Pricing is significantly reduced for a total price of \$80/student (includes ticket plus transportation). **Payment should be made, in cash, to Amanda Di Ponio by the second week of classes.** As the Performance Analysis assignment (15% – see below) is attached to this performance, it is strongly encouraged that students do their best to attend.

#### TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED RESOURCES

Jean Genet. *The Blacks: A Clown Show*. Grove, 1994. Ebook available through Amazon (Kindle) for \$12.43.

[https://www.amazon.ca/Blacks-Clown-Show-Jean-Genet-ebook/dp/B006NZ66U4/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1597157254&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Blacks-Clown-Show-Jean-Genet-ebook/dp/B006NZ66U4/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1597157254&sr=8-1)

Daniel Gerould, editor. *Theatre/Theory/Theatre: The Major Critical Texts from Aristotle and Zeami to Soyinka and Havel*. Applause, 2003. (**Access via Course Readings via OWL; login with your UWO account**)

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/lib/west/reader.action?docID=5674276>

Robert Knopf, editor. *Theatre of the Avant-Garde, 1890-1950: A Critical Anthology*. Yale UP, 2015. (**Access via Course Readings via OWL; login with your UWO account**)

<https://yaleup-degruyter-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/view/title/531827>

W.B. Worthen, editor. *The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed., University of California, 2011. (**Selections from this text are provided via OWL**)

Additional texts and critical materials will be distributed to students throughout the term via OWL, under Course Readings **and** Course Content, or the library catalogue.

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION

Individual:

Research Essay (2,500-3,000 words) 25%

Final Exam Project 25%

Collaborative (i.e. assignments will be distributed, shared, and sometimes even completed with peers):

In-class Performance: 20% (2 x 10%)

Performance Analysis (1,500 words) 15%

Participation & Discussion 15%

**NOTE.** detailed assignment instructions will be provided and posted on OWL under Assignments; students are required to consult and follow those requirements. Assignments must be submitted to our course website for plagiarism checking. Assignment due dates are specified in the lecture and reading schedule below. **Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks per day**, up to a maximum of one week. After seven (7) days, the assignment will not be accepted and receive a mark of zero. Late assignments will not be appended with comments. Assignments are never accepted via email. **Extensions are never granted the day an assignment is due.** Extenuating circumstances will be considered provided students seek academic accommodation if/when necessary; see the Appendix (below).

**Participation:** The participation grade is comprised of students' attendance and participation in classroom activities, including readings, in-class discussions, and assigned tasks. Further, students are expected to come to class prepared, having read assigned materials, and willing and able to participate. Complete details of student responsibilities regarding the participation grade will be outlined in the first week of classes.

**NOTE.** If students miss class, they are not entitled to Academic Accommodation regarding the Participation grade. This particular grade registers only students' presence in class and their participation. If students are absent from class, for whatever reason, attendance and participation grades will decline. Extenuating circumstances will be considered, but students must first consult with me.

#### **PLAGIARISM**

There is zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course.

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage, from another author, in this case including from course notes (sources will be detailed), they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing in the form of citations. This includes Internet sources. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

##### **TERM 1**

**Week 1** Monday, Sept. 12 & Wednesday, Sept. 14

Introduction + Greek Tragedy

Course intro: readings, objectives, assignments, participation, etc.

Performance work explained

Aristotle, "The Poetics" (4<sup>th</sup> c. BC)

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, c. 431 BC

**Week 2** Monday, Sept. 19 & Wednesday, Sept. 21

Greek Comedy

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, 411 BC

**Week 3** Monday, Sept. 26 & Wednesday, Sept. 28

Indian Classical Sanskrit Drama

Khālidāsa, *Shakuntala*, 5<sup>th</sup> c.

Bharata Muni, *Natyashastra*, 1<sup>st</sup> c.

Grotowski, *Shakuntalā*, 1960

**Week 4** Monday, Oct. 3 & Wednesday, Oct. 5

Japanese Kabuki and Nōh Theatres

*Chūshingura: The Forty-Seven Samurai*, c. 1700; adapted by Nakamura Matagorō, 1979

The Development of the Kabuki Stage

Zeami, "On The Art Of The Noh Drama" (15<sup>th</sup> c.)

**Trip to Stratford Thursday, October 6**

(Online: Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*, 1976)

**Week 5** No class Monday, Oct. 10 (Thanksgiving Holiday) & Wednesday, Oct. 12

Medieval Cycle Plays

Anonymous, *The York Crucifixion*, 14<sup>th</sup> c.

**Week 6** Monday, Oct. 17 & Wednesday, Oct. 19

Elizabethan Tragedy

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, c. 1589

Drama and Theatre in Renaissance London

**Performance Analysis due Wednesday, October 19 (15%)**

**Week 7** Monday, Oct. 24 & Wednesday, Oct. 26

Elizabethan Comedy

William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*, c. 1599

Sidney, "The Defense of Poesy" (1583)

Shakespeare's Globe

**Fall Reading Week: October 31-November 6 (no classes)**

**Week 8** Monday, Nov. 7 & Wednesday, Nov. 9

Court Masque

Ben Jonson, *Love's Welcome at Bolsover*, 1634

The Jacobean Court Masque; Theatre in English, 1660-1737

**Week 9** Monday, Nov. 14 & Wednesday, Nov. 16

Spanish Golden Age Theatre

José Manuel Calderón, *Life is a Dream*, 1636

de Vega, "The New Art of Writing Plays" (1609)

Theatre in Spain's Golden Age, 1580-1680

**Week 10** Monday, Nov. 21 & Wednesday, Nov. 23

Seventeenth-Century French Theatre

Moliere, *Tartuffe*, 1666

Theatre in France, 1660-1700

Corneille, "Of The Three Unities Of Action Time And Place" (1660)

**Week 11** Monday, Nov. 28 & Wednesday, Nov. 30

Restoration Drama: Humour, Manners, Intrigue

Aphra Behn, *The Rover*, 1677

Dramatic Innovation in France, England, and Spain

**Week 12** Monday, Dec. 5

**In-class Performance 1 (10%): Monday, Dec. 5**

## **TERM 2**

**Week 1** Monday, Jan. 9 & Wednesday, Jan. 11

Naturalism

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll House*, 1879

Zola, "Naturalism In The Theatre" (1881)

**Week 2** Monday, Jan. 16 & Wednesday, Jan. 18

Symbolism

Maurice Maeterlinck, *Interior*, 1894

Maeterlinck, "The Tragical in Daily Life" (1896)

**Week 3** Monday, Jan. 23 & Wednesday, Jan. 25

Surrealism

Alfred Jarry, *Ubu Roi*, 1896

Antonin Artaud, *The Spurt of Blood*, 1925

Artaud, *The Theatre and Its Double* (1938)

**Week 4** Monday, Jan. 30 & Wednesday, Feb. 1

Expressionism

Marita Bonner, *The Purple Flower*, 1927

**Week 5** Monday, Feb. 6 & Wednesday, Feb. 8

Epic Theatre

Bertolt Brecht, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, 1939

Brecht, "The Modern Theatre Is the Epic Theatre" (1930)

**Week 6** Monday, Feb. 13 & Wednesday, Feb. 15

Theatre of the Absurd

Eugène Ionesco, *The Lesson*, 1951

Esslin, "The Theatre of the Absurd" (1961)

**Research Essay due Wednesday, February 15 (25%)**

**Winter Reading Week: February 18-26 (no classes)**

**Week 7** Monday, Feb. 27 & Wednesday, Mar. 1

Theatre of Hatred

Jean Genet, *The Blacks: A Clown Show*, 1958

**Week 8** Monday, Mar. 6 & Wednesday, Mar. 8

Postcolonial Theatre

Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*, 1976 (revisited)

Louis Nowra, *The Golden Age*, 1985

Soyinka, "Drama And The African World-View" (1976)

**Week 9** Monday, Mar. 13 & Wednesday, Mar. 15  
Feminist Revisions I  
Suzan-Lori Parks, *The America Play*, 1994

**Week 10** Monday, Mar. 20 & Wednesday, Mar. 22  
Theatre of the Oppressed  
People's Theatre of Peru, 1973  
Boal, "Theater Of The Oppressed" (1974)

**Week 11** Monday, Mar. 27 & Wednesday, Mar. 29  
Feminist Revisions II  
Caryl Churchill, *Far Away*, 2000

**Week 12** Monday, Apr. 3 & Wednesday, April 5  
Performance 2 + Final Exam Project 1-to-1 Meetings  
**In-class Performance 2 (10%): Monday, April 3**  
Final Exam Project 1-to-1 Meetings

**Week 13** Monday, April 10  
**Final Exam Project due Monday, April 10 (25%)**



## Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

### **Pandemic Contingency**

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

## **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

## **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

.The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf).

## **Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

## **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

## **Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

## **Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

**(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

**b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising**

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

**c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation\\_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.



You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

### **Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)