

## Fall/Winter 2021-2022

<b>AP/EN 4143 6.0A (Y)</b>	<b>Plays and Counterplays</b>
<b>Course Director:</b>	Jacqueline Petropoulos <a href="mailto:jpetr@yorku.ca">jpetr@yorku.ca</a> Virtual Office Hours TBD
<b>Time:</b>	Thursday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
<b>Delivery Format:</b>	<b>REMOTE</b> – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times.  During the Fall term this course will include synchronous and asynchronous elements, but students should be available for synchronous meetings during the scheduled day and time; should public health guidelines allow for a fuller return to campus in Winter 2022 (TBD by York University), this course will meet regularly in person at its scheduled day and time.
<b>Description:</b>	This seminar examines a number of contemporary theatrical interrogations of the plays of two major dramatists: William Shakespeare and Anton Chekhov. Bertolt Brecht termed such works “counterplays”: texts which attempt to subvert the original sources by engaging them in a debate. This course asks, what does it mean to reinterpret some of the most famous plays of the dramatic canon from different cultural, political, national, and historical perspectives? How do contemporary subjects of gender, race, class, and sexuality breathe new life into old forms? Why have these stories endured for so long and why do they continue to resonate today? While the course is primarily text-based, we also consider some film and stage adaptations, covering a wide range of material from across the globe, including Canadian, American, Indigenous, Caribbean, British, Asian, and South Asian works. We examine the social, cultural, and political significance of the course texts as well as their literary and theatrical features. Class readings and discussion will be framed by relevant critical and theoretical contexts.
<b>Category:</b>	B
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	N/A
<b>Requirements:</b>	<b>(Tentative)</b> Term Papers (2 x 30%); Presentations (2 x 10%); Participation (20%)
<b>Reading List:</b>	Aimé Césaire, <i>A Tempest</i> ; Anton Chekhov, <i>The Major Plays</i> ; Elaine Feinstein and the Women's Theatre Group, <i>Lear's Daughters</i> ; Ann-Marie MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i> ; Jane Martin, <i>Anton in Show Business</i> ; Yvette Nolan, <i>Death of a Chief</i> ; Philip Osment, <i>This Island's Mine</i> ; Sarena Parmar, <i>The</i>

	<p><i>Orchard (After Chekhov); Djanet Sears, Harlem Duet; William Shakespeare, King Lear, Othello, The Tempest; Paula Vogel, Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief; Wendy Wasserstein, The Sisters Rosensweig</i></p> <p>Please note: Some films and critical articles will be added to the course texts and there may be some minor changes to the above list of plays.</p>
<b>Open To:</b>	Year 4 in Honours