

FW 2024 -2025

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| AP/EN 4140 3.0A (F) | Contemporary Drama |
| Course Director: | <p>Marcia Blumberg Office: Eng Dept 542 ATK (my office is not in use) Home Phone: 416-445-1568 (by appointment) Email: blumberg@yorku.ca</p> <p>All appointments should be scheduled with me via e-mail. I will try to accommodate requests from 10am to 9pm, please provide several time choices. The request should include the course number and a description of the topic. I will respond and confirm.</p> |
| Time: | Thursdays from 2.30pm – 5.30pm |
| Delivery Format: | ONLINE Zoom Course Synchronous Delivery Scheduled meeting times as above. Students should be available for the entire seminar to participate in course-related activities. I will take attendance each week. |
| Description: | <p>Extended Course Description Provoking Drama: Contemporary concerns in the international political arena</p> <p>Provocative, confrontational, sensational, scandalous—these are adjectives critics often use to describe theatrical art that shocks and unremittingly confronts the societal status quo while also intensely challenging formal norms. Theatre has participated in this phenomenon over centuries. This course engages with playwrights who have in the past 3 decades conceived of drama as politically and aesthetically interventionist in the <i>contemporary</i> theatre of global politics. Specifically, we will investigate the politics/theatre of trauma, war, and torture in plays from Britain, Canada, Chile, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, South Africa, and the USA.</p> <p>Course Objectives</p> <p>The course analyzes cultural and political contexts, specificities of time and place, aspects of race, class, gender, and power differentials, to interrogate theatrical, formal, thematic, and theoretical issues that speak with urgency to the times in which we live. We will compare the shock value of the plays when they premiered and today. Of these plays that challenge contemporary conventional values, we shall ask such questions as: What ideas</p> |

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| | and conflicts are confronted? What formal, political, and ethical issues are tested? |
| Category: | B |
| Historical Requirement: | N/A |
| Requirements: | <p>Requirements and Grade Breakdown</p> <p>Assignment 1 Theatre review (4 pages) = 15%</p> <p>Assignment 2 Annotated Bibliography = 10%</p> <p>Assignment 3 Comparative research essay (10 pages) =35%.</p> <p>Response papers. 2 out of 11 texts (4 pages each). (total 30%).</p> <p>Engaged Class participation. = 10%</p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL HAVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS.</p> |
| Reading List: | <p>READING LIST</p> <p>Gregory Burke, <i>Black Watch</i>(Faber); Caryl Churchill, <i>Far Away</i>(CK); Ariel Dorfman, <i>Death and the Maiden</i> (Penguin USA); Janus Glowacki, <i>Antigone in New York</i> (Samuel French); David Hare, <i>Stuff Happens</i>(Faber); Tony Kushner, <i>Angels in America: Part I Millenium Approaches</i>(TCG); Martin McDonagh, <i>The Pillowman</i> (Thrift books.com); Harold Pinter, <i>Mountain Language</i>(DPS), <i>New World Order</i> (CK); John Patrick Shanley, <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> (DPS Acting edition) Jane Taylor, <i>Ubu and the Truth Commission</i> (CK); Judith Thompson, <i>Palace of the End</i> (Playwrights Canada Press); The course kit contains a few plays as well as readings.</p> <p>Scott Reserves have copies of old Course Kits and texts that are not available online. CK= Course Kit; DPS=Dramatists Play Service</p> |
| Open To: | Yr 3, 4 (EN, ENPR, CRWR students only) |