

FW 2024-25

AP/EN 4143 6.0A (Y)	Plays and Counterplays
Course Director:	Jacqueline Petropoulos 710 Atkinson Ext. 22228 jpetr@yorku.ca
Time:	Thursday 11:30-2:30
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	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.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	<u>Tentative</u> Fall Essay 30% Fall Presentation 10% Winter Essay 30% Winter Presentation 10% Participation 15% TBD: 5%
Reading List:	Aimé Césaire, <i>A Tempest</i> ; Anton Chekhov, <i>Three Sisters</i> and <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> ; Elaine Feinstein and the Women's Theatre Group, <i>Lear's Daughters</i> ; Fischlin and Fortier, <i>Adaptations of Shakespeare</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 Orchard, After Chekhov</i> ; Djanet Sears, <i>Harlem Duet</i> ; William Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>King Lear</i> , <i>Othello</i> , <i>The Tempest</i> ; Paula Vogel, <i>Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief</i> ; Wendy Wasserstein, <i>The Sisters Rosensweig</i>
Open To:	Yr 4 Honours (EN, ENPR, CRWR students only)