

SU 2026

AP/EN 4140.03 (S1)	Contemporary Drama Course Provoking Drama: Contemporary concerns in the international political arena
Course Director:	Marcia Blumberg Office hours can be arranged. Email and then we can set up a time to speak on the phone. Home Phone: 416- 445-1568 From 10am to 10pm e-mail: blumberg@yorku.ca The synchronous course requires attendance at each class.
Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-5:20pm
Delivery Format:	X ONLINE (Synchronous)
Description:	This course focuses on close readings of plays, diverse contexts, theatrical analyses, and the quality of your writing. (I strongly discourage the use of A1). 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 involves playwrights who have in the past 4 decades conceived 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. The course analyzes cultural, political contexts, specificities of time, place, aspects of race, class, gender, and power differentials, and the concept of re-visioning, 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 what they signify today. Of these plays that challenge contemporary conventional values, we shall ask such questions as: What ideas and conflicts are confronted? What formal, political, and ethical issues are tested? Every class has an informal oral quiz which counts towards a participation grade.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Assignment 1 Writing response. (3 pages) = 20%. Assignment 2 Theatre review (4 pages) = 25% Assignment 3 Comparative research essay (9-10 pages) =35%.

	Engaged Class participation including informal oral quizzes each week. = 20%
Reading List:	<p> Gregory Burke, <i>Black Watch</i> Caryl Churchill, <i>Far Away</i> Ariel Dorfman, <i>Death and the Maiden</i> Yael Farber, <i>Mies Julie</i> Janus Glowacki, <i>Antigone in New York</i> Martin McDonagh, <i>The Pillowman</i> Harold Pinter, <i>Mountain Language</i> John Patrick Shanley, <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> Jane Taylor, <i>Ubu and the Truth Commission</i> Judith Thompson, <i>Palace of the End</i> All plays in Scott Library on reserve, Details about online texts and those to be bought in the bookstore with prices are in my full course outline which has been posted on eclass. </p>
Open To:	Yr 4 Honours (EN/ENPR/CRWR students only)