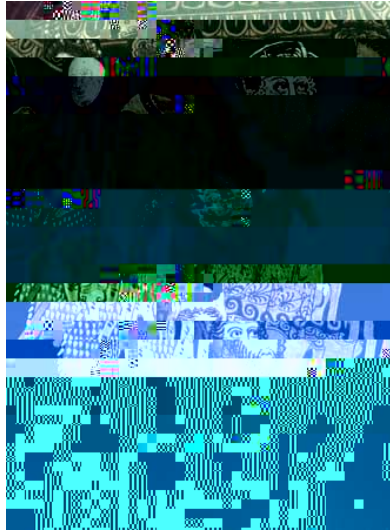




Department of English & Writing Studies  
Theatre Studies Program

**Forms and Genres: The Greeks to Shakespeare  
Theatre Studies 2204G (001)**

Winter 2019



**Instructor:** Dr. Jo Devereux  
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University College 4433  
Office Hours: TBA

**Course Location:** Arts & Humanities  
Building 1B08

**Course Date/Time:** TU 11:30 am–1:30 pm;  
TH 12:30–1:30 pm

**Antirequisite(s):** Theatre Studies 2203E.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of any 1000-level or above “E” or combination of two 1000-level or above “F/G” courses from any department in the following Faculties: Arts and Humanities, School of Humanities (Brescia), Information and Media Studies (FIMS), or Music; or from any of the following additional Departments: Anthropology, English (King’s), English and Cultural Studies (Huron), History (Main and Affiliates), Philosophy (Affiliates), Political Science (Main and Affiliates), the Religious Studies (Affiliates), or permission of the Department.

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.

**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the range of plays and theatre practices that shaped the first two millennia of theatre. Landmark texts will be studied in the context of the diverse theatre spaces, festivals, and political cultures in which the drama first came into being. 3 hours, 0.5 course



Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No binders or protective covers of any kind are necessary. Essays must follow current MLA format and must include a list of Works Cited at the end (see *MLA Handbook* for details).

Essays must be on works studied in **this** section of the course.

IT IS ADVISABLE TO RETAIN AT LEAST ONE HARD COPY OF THE ESSAY IN THE EVENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE TO THE ORIGINAL.

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:**

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

**Email Policy:**

Email is meant for brief inquiries only. Please allow a day or two for a response. Email received over the weekend will be answered the following week.

Participation/Performance Work (20%)

Each Thursday, beginning January 24th, we will forgo the formalities of a traditional university lecture and get down to the business of performance. I will be dividing the class into four groups, and each week you, the students, will run our final hour.

Our performance hour will begin with a scene study presentation by the group designated, for that week, as THE COMPANY.

It will be the Company's job to stage a scene based on one from that week's play, and to take up roles such as actors, director, dramaturge, and designers. The scenes you perform will be "poor" theatre in the best sense of the word: not a formal, heavily rehearsed performance, although you are free to bring props and costumes as you choose. Your primary task will be to work together to select a specific approach to the

Coordinating your schedules will *not* be easy. In fact, it's part of the challenge. But your groups are large because performance cannot happen with just a couple of people: theatre is made in the messy coordination between different personalities with different schedules and different needs. Do your best to accommodate everyone, to get to know one another, and to support one another; by the end of the term, you'll be glad these people are your colleagues; they may even be your friends!

After each performance, and a short break, the Company will be asked to get back on stage and participate in a question-and-answer period. Each member of the Company should try to contribute something during the Q&A, especially those whose work has been primarily behind the scenes. This is the time for you to explore in depth, with your colleagues, the terrific thought work that has gone into your presentation!

The final part of the class will involve a post-performance "talk-back" or discussion.

When the week's performance is over, the Company will take their break while the rest of us get into our designated groups. You will be given 10-15 minutes in your group to discuss the performance you've just seen, and to prepare two or three good challenging questions about the Company's performance choices.

In order to ensure that your group's discussion runs smoothly, each of you will need to take some notes during the Company's performance, bring those notes with you to your group's "huddle," and be prepared to talk about them.

NOTE that the questions you develop must delve below the surface of what the Company is doing. Colleague-critics are reviewers with a difference: your task is to

**Possible Topics:**

Identity  
Emotion  
Masks  
Movement  
Sacrifice  
Gender  
Divinity  
Failure  
Secrecy  
Clothing

**Essay 2:** Choose TWO different plays from the one you examined in Essay 1. As with the first essay, choose ONE of the broad topics listed above (which you must narrow down very specifically to construct a clear argument).

**Again:** do some preliminary research on this topic with reference to the play you are exploring. You may write more than once on the same topic (for example, Gender), but **make sure you cover TWO different plays from the one you examined in Essay 1.**

Length: 2500 words

Format: MLA 8 for undergraduate research essays

Worth: 25%

Due: Apr. 9, 2019

Timetable

**Winter Term 2019**

Jan.8-10	Introduction	
Jan.15-17	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>	
Jan.22-24	Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> <b>Group 1</b>	
Jan.29-31	Euripides, <i>The Bacchae</i> <b>Group 2</b>	
Feb.5-7	The Wakefield Master,	<b>Group 3</b>
Feb.12-14	The Chester <i>Play of Adam and Eve</i> and	<b>Group 4</b>
Feb.19-21	<b>READING WEEK</b>	
Feb.26-28	The York <i>Crucifixion</i> and <i>The Harrowing of Hell</i> ; <b>Essay 1 Due Feb. 28</b>	
Mar.5-7	Anonymous, <i>Mankind</i> <b>Group 1</b>	
Mar.12-14	Anonymous, <i>Everyman</i> <b>Group 2</b>	
Mar.19-21	Fulwell, <i>Like Will to Like</i>	

