

Department of English & Writing Studies
Theatre Studies Program

Winter2025

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux
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Office: UC 4433

Prerequisite: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 101299 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 they first came into being. 3 hours, 0.5 course

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- analyze a range of mainstream and alternative theatrical forms and genres in terms of their cultural production
- assess the aesthetic, ethical, social, economic, and political dimensions of theatrical works using a range of critical approaches
- conceptualize, design, communicate, and implement creative academic projects, both alone and in collaboration with diverse others

Course Material(s) required

The Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama, edited by Christina M. Fitzgerald and John T. Sebastian, Broadview, 2012.

Textbook costs:

Print CA\$73.95
eBook CA \$53.25

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand copies of this textbook.

Plays to be studied

Sophocles, Oedipus King of Thebes <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/27673/27673-3.htm>

Aristophanes, Lysistrata <https://web.viu.ca/johnstoi/aristophanes/lysistrata.htm>

The Wakefield Master, The Second Shepherds Play (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

The Chester Play of Noah's Flood (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

The York Crucifixion (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

Anonymous, Mankind (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

Anonymous, Everyman (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

Fulwell, Like Will to Like (Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama)

Middleton, Thomas. The Revenger's Tragedy (PDF on OWL)

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student s Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per .course

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, requests for academic consideration pertaining to essays, exam, and group performances must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are

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choices, to offer alternative readings, and to examine how others in the class received the performance (it's a good idea to address some questions to your fellow audience members as well!). One important proviso: colleague criticism is designed to be helpful and respectful, not hurtful and derogatory.

We hope to get a lively discussion going and will bounce from group to group until either our time or your notes are exhausted. Support a strong, engaged class discussion!

Assessment

Your group work is the core component of your participation grade; you will be judged on the amount of effort you put into the work on your acting skills and on your willingness to push yourself in new directions, beyond your comfort zone. Note that you need not play a major role in each presentation: balance your commitments to the group work as needed, but ensure that you are contributing helpfully in some way each time your group is The Company, and that you challenge yourself to contribute during your group's (es)8.9 (ar)4.9 (e ex)-2.1 (haus)-2 (t)-6 (ng y)deq in some w 0 11.04 108 532.56

You must cover TWO different plays from the one you examined in Essay 1.

As you research your essay, start by reading four critics on your subject and noting their arguments. Then examine the play closely and develop your own ideas about the passages the critics examine in their articles, so that you can show clearly how your ideas differ from those of the critics.

1. Compare and contrast the main characters in TWO plays on the course.
2. Discuss the idea of failure and/or success in TWO plays on the course.
3. Explain the role of the chorus in TWO plays on the course.

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