

Department of English & Writing Studies

Special Topics in Drama

English 2041F (001)

Fall 2018 Production: *Dido, Queen of Carthage* by Christopher Marlowe



Instructor/Director: Dr. Jo Devereux
UC 4433
jdevereu@uwo.ca
Phone: 519-661-2111 x82761
Office Hours: TBA

Course Location: Conron Hall, University
College

Course Date/Time: Monday 12:30-1:30 pm
and Wednesday 12:30-2:30 pm

Rehearsals: Dec. 3-8 - Rehearsals and Performances in Conron Hall: 6:30 pm call for 8 pm show each night

Antirequisite(s): English 2041F/G if taken prior to September 2014.

Course Description

In this course, students participating in a major Western University theatre production explore in theory and practice approaches to text in performance. Only students working as an actor, or in such major production roles as stage manager, assistant stage manager, lighting, set or costume designer may enroll. Permission of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies is required to enroll.

Course Materials

Text:

Marlowe, Christopher. *Dido, Queen of Carthage*, edited by Jo Devereux, Western University, 2018. We will also be studying the 1594 quarto, accessible on EEBO (Early English Books Online).

Methods of Evaluation

First Essay (500-750 words) 10%
Second Essay (750-1000 words) 10%
Third Essay (1250-1500 words) 40%
Performance Evaluation (See below) 40%

Essay Due dates, Late policy, Extensions

All overdue essays will receive a penalty of 1% per day late.

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).

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

Essay Topics

Essay 1: Scene Analysis (500-750 words) 10%: Due Oct. 17

Choose ONE scene from the play, and in a 500-750-word essay analyze the scene in terms of such elements as theme, literary devices, and patterns of imagery, character development, staging techniques, and relationship to the play as a whole.

Essay 2: Narrative Essay (750-1000 words) 10%: Due Nov. 21

Write an essay of 750-1000 words explaining your role in the production and discussing the ways in which this experience has affected your understanding of the play. Hint: Please note that the final essay (Essay 3) is due just under three weeks later, because of the requirement to submit grades on time to the department. Therefore, it would be advisable to work on both Essay 2 and 3 at the same time: i.e. very early in the term.

Essay 3: Short Research Essay (1250-1500 words) 40%: Due Dec. 5

Choose ONE of the following topics and write a 1250-1500-word research essay. NB: Narrow the topic down to make it as specific as possible! Use at least two secondary sources to frame your own argument. Respond to those critics. Don't just copy their ideas: show how yours differ from theirs. Use MLA format and document meticulously. This is a critical essay, so you need a clear argument/thesis. Be sure to talk to me early about your ideas for this thesis and how to research the question.

Heroism

Love

Sacrifice

Desire

Important props or costumes

Tragi-comic elements

Gender

Sexuality

Adaptation of Virgil

Imagery of water, ships, mermaids, or other marine objects

Performance Evaluation and Expectations

40% (subdivided below)

Attendance and Punctuality (5%)

You must attend all rehearsals, meetings, and performances to which you are called. All members of cast and crew must be on time for each call you are given.

Preparation (10%)

Cast members must research and prepare their roles from the first read-through to final performance. Actors must take careful blocking notes and must observe the off-book deadline punctually. Technical and production staff should also research their work thoroughly and produce set designs and set pieces, properties, costumes, and other necessities in a timely fashion.

Focus (5%)

Attentiveness and effort during rehearsals and performance will be assessed.

Innovation (5%)

Contribution of ideas and initiatives will be noted, in the rehearsal process and through the run.

General Progress and Improvement (5%)

Your attention to the director's and the stage manager's notes and your effort at improving performance or production work will be assessed.

Overall Professionalism (10%)

Respect towards the entire company, UWO staff, and the physical theatre, properties, and equipment will be noted. Commitment to the production, willingness to assist with production matters, and overall work ethic will be assessed, along with flexibility and problem-solving abilities. Clear communication of concerns and ideas will count.

Duties of Production Crew

Stage Manager: Attend all auditions, interviews, and rehearsals, as well as each performance. Write blocking notes, props notes, and technical cues into prompt script. Supervise two ASMs (see below). Give the calls to all cast members and needed production staff for rehearsals and run of show. Call the cues during the run of the show. Take charge of dressing rooms, green room, and stage during rehearsals and run. Head up technical crew during rehearsals and run.

Assistant Stage Managers (ASMs—two): Work with Stage Manager on keeping blocking and technical notes, and on calling cast members for rehearsals and run. Head up the running crew for the run of the show. Assist with properties, costumes, costume changes, and other cues.

Costume Designer: In consultation with the director, design and build, rent and/or borrow costumes for the run. Measure all cast members and draw up costume plot. Provide rehearsal skirts for female cast members in early rehearsal period. Organize and supervise two costume assistants. Take charge of costumes during run. Ensure return of borrowed and rented costumes after closing night. Submit all receipts to Director.

Costume Assistants: Assist Costume Designer during design process, measuring, and rehearsals. Assist in building, sewing, and altering costumes. Help in any costume rental or borrowing. Assist with costumes during run—changes, repairs, laundry, etc. Help return costumes at end of run.

Properties Designer: In consultation with director, costume, and set designers, design and build, purchase, rent, or borrow props before production week. Locate and borrow needed furniture for run. Organize and supervise running, maintenance, storage, repair, and replacement of props during tech and dress rehearsals, as well as during run. Return props at end of run. Submit all receipts to Director.

Composer/Music Director: Compose incidental, pre-show, intermission, and after-show music.

Choreographer: Choreograph needed dances and movements in the show.

Production Photographer/Videographer/Web Designer: Photograph cast and crew for programme and publicity stills to display on campus and elsewhere. Film rehearsal and/or show for record. Design and maintain production web site (linked to English department site).

Publicity Manager and Programme Designer: In consultation with director and producer, organize all publicity: flyers, teasers, posters, print and online advertising and media releases. Liaise with FIMS and with the USC and the *Gazette* and *Western News*, as well as London media, in order to set up television, newspaper, and online interviews and other coverage. With producer, organize pre-show ticket sales to large classes in English department and possibly other departments.

Box Office Manager (depending on venue): With Publicity Manager, organize and run selling of tickets pre-show to UWO classes, as well as at box office locations. Help manage box office during run. Look after box office receipts.

Running Crew, Lighting Crew, Sound Crew: Responsible for running technical elements of the show.

Timetable

Sept. 10	Introduction and Table Talk
Sept. 12	Read Script
Sept. 19	Discuss Script and Table Talk
Sept. 21	Block pages 1-11 (Act 1): Crew discuss design and begin props list, meet with costumer
Sept. 24	Block pages 11-22 (Act 2, scene 1); Crew brainstorm publicity, continue props list
Sept. 26	Block pages 22-31 (Act 2, scene 1-Act 3, scene 1); Crew start work on costumes, props
Oct. 1	Block pages 31-37 (Act 3, scene 2-Act 3, scene 3); Crew start making video for PR
Oct. 3	Block pages 37-52 (Act 3, scene 4-Act 4, scene 4); Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Oct. 8-10	Fall Reading Week: No class. Memorize Lines
Oct. 15-17	Block pages 52-66 (Act 4, scene 5-Act 5, scene 1); Essay 1 Due Oct. 17
Oct. 22-24	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Oct. 29-31	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Nov. 5-7	First Run through; Crew take notes
Nov. 12-14	OFF BOOK Deadline, Monday: Work Scenes

Nov. 19-21 Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props; **Essay 2 Due Nov. 21**
Nov. 26-28 Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Dec. 3-5 Run through and Final rehearsals: Conron Hall; **Essay 3 Due Dec. 5**
Dec. 6, 7, 8 Performances in Conron Hall: 6:30 pm call for 8 pm show each night

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or 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.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.