

Department of English & Writing Studies
Special Topics in Drama - Fall Theatre Production
English 2041F (001)
Fall 2019



Instructor/Director: Dr. Jo Devereux
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Classes: Monday 12:30-1:30 pm,
Wednesday 12:30-2:30 pm | Conron Hall,
UC 3110

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays
9:30-10:30 am or by appointment

Rehearsals and Performances: Dec. 2-7
at TAP Centre for Creativity, 203 Dundas
Street, London

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:

Shelley, Percy Bysshe. *The Cenci*, edited by Jo Devereux and Monika Lee, Western University, 2019.

Methods of Evaluation

First Essay (500-750 words) 10%
Second Essay (750-1000 words) 10%
Third Essay (2500 words) 40%
Performance Evaluation (See below) 40%

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Essay Due dates, Late policy, Extensions, Plagiarism

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.

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.

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.

Essay Topics

Essay 1: Scene Analysis (500-750 words) 10%: Due Oct. 9

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. 11

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. Note that Essay 3 is due only two weeks after this due date!

Essay 3: Short Research Essay (2500 words) 40%: Due Nov. 27

Choose ONE of the following topics and write a 2500-word research essay. NB: Narrow the topic down to make it as specific as possible! Use at least four 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 8 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.

Topics:

Violence
Religion, the Church
Gender politics
Family
Justice, legality, defense
Historical sources
Performance history

Performance Evaluation and Expectations:

40% (subdivided below)

Attendance and Punctuality (5%)

You must attend all rehearsals, classes, 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.

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

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.

Timetable

Sept. 9	Introduction and Table Talk
Sept. 11	Read Script
Sept. 16	Discuss Script and Table Talk
Sept. 18	Block Act 1 (11 pages): Crew discuss design and begin props list, meet with costumer
Sept. 23	Continue blocking Act 1; start to block Act 2 (9 pages); Crew brainstorm publicity, continue props list
Sept. 25	Continue blocking Act 2; Crew start work on costumes, props
Sept. 30	Start to block Act 3 (15 pages)
Oct. 2	Continue blocking Act 3; Crew start making video for PR
Oct. 7	Start to block Act 4 (18 pages)
Oct. 9	Continue blocking Act 4; Essay 1 Due Oct. 9
Oct. 14	Continue blocking Act 4
Oct. 16	Start to block Act 5 (18 pages)
Oct. 21-23	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Oct. 28-30	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Nov. 4-6	Fall Reading Week: no classes
Nov. 11-13	OFF BOOK Deadline, Monday: Work Scenes; Essay 2 Due Nov.11
Nov. 18-20	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props
Nov. 25-27	Work Scenes; Crew continue PR, costumes, props; Essay 3 Due Nov. 27
Dec. 2-3	Work scenes on Monday; Crew work on load-in at TAP from noon to 5PM. NB: each evening at TAP everyone is called: Run through and Final rehearsals: 5-9PM
Dec. 4-7	Work scenes on Wednesday; NB: Performances at TAP: 6PM call for 7:30PM show each night! Strike of set, costumes, props, Dec. 7 immediately after show.