

Department of English & Writing Studies
Special Topics in Drama: Buckingham's *The Rehearsal*
English 2041G (001)
Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux
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Course Day/Time: Tues 12:30-1:30, Thurs
12:30-2:30

Course Location: UC 3110 (Conron Hall)

Delivery Type: In person



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.

Objectives:

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

- Perform a Restoration comedy
- Write a critically engaged essay about the play and its performance history
- Present logical and reasoned arguments about the play with a sophisticated use of evidence
- Demonstrate familiarity with the historical context of Restoration drama
- Show knowledge of the reception history of the play from its time to our present moment

Course Material (required)

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. *The Rehearsal*, edited by Jo Devereux. Western University, 2020.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

- 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 <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Essay Topics

Essay 1: Scene Analysis (500-750 words) 10%: Due February 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 March 23

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.

Essay 3: Short Research Essay (2500 words) 40%: Due April 6

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:

- Authority
- Authorship
- Kingship
- Heroic tragedy
- Gender and the Restoration stage
- Restoration comedy and audiences
- Parody and lampoons
- The seventeenth-century critic

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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

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. See <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

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.

Timetable

Week beginning

Jan. 4	Introduction, Auditions and casting
Jan. 11	Table Talk and Script Read
Jan. 18	Block pages 3-17
Jan. 25	Block pages 17-32
Feb. 1	Block pages 33-47
Feb. 8	Block 48-63; Essay 1 Due Tuesday Feb. 9
Feb. 15	READING WEEK
Feb. 22	Work pages 3-17
Mar. 1	Work pages 17-32
Mar. 8	Work pages 33-47
Mar. 15	Work 48-63
Mar. 22	Run whole show; Essay 2 Due Tues. March 23
Mar. 29	Run whole show with tech
Apr. 5	Tech Dress, Tues. 6 April at 7 PM; Final Dress, Wed. 7 April at 7PM; Final Essay Due Tues. April 6

Run of Show, Thurs. 8 April to Saturday 10 April (3 shows, all at 8 PM)