Western
Arts&Humanities

Department of English & Writing Studies
Theatre Studies Program

Destination Theatre
Theatre Studies 3900G (001)
Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux
UC 4433 | 519-661-2111 x82761
jdevereu@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:30,
Thursday 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

Course Location: Arts & Humanities Building 1B04

Course Date/Time: Thursday 7-9 pm

Prerequisites: 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

Theatre Studies 3900G: Destination Theatre is a capstone course in the Theatre Studies Major and Minor program. This half-course equivalent offers undergraduates the opportunity to learn about contemporary theatre and performance in a major international city. A two-week intensive learning experience in either New York or London, England is included as a core component of the course, and our study abroad will incorporate guest lectures, tours, post-performance discussion, and practice-based learning alongside theatre outings.

We will use OWL, but only for the basics: announcements and messages; some course resources; assignment submission; and logging grades.

For everything else – including regular, public blog posts authored by each of you! – we will use https://destinationtheatre.wordpress.com.

You will want to find and bookmark this site now!

Outcomes:
Students who commit seriously to our shared labour in TS3900 can expect to:

- Discover and practice a number of different approaches to reading theatre and performance as engaged, public art;
- Explore connections between theatre and performance studies and their own areas of study and interest;
- Develop strong teamwork skills;
- Develop skills necessary to communicating with a public audience;
- Build personal resilience and self-reliance, alongside like-minded others;
- Take risks, make mistakes, and have a mountain of fun.

Objectives:
In order to achieve the above outcomes, students should expect to:

- Read a wide variety of introductory theatre studies material, with the option to dig deeper into some of it during independent study;
- Attend approximately a dozen live performances, both in London, ON and in London and Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, and debrief these performances thoroughly in class;
- Work regularly in small pairs and teams;
- Contribute regularly to our class blog;
- Create one major research project (format of your choosing), based on the exploration of connections between your own areas of interest and those focused on in our course;
- Spend substantial time both before and after departure thinking about how to practice self-care, group care, and take responsibility while in a new and challenging environment.

Course Materials

Texts:
We will read the following books together in class; they are short, designed for undergraduate readers, and cost approximately $15 each through the bookstore (generally less online). They are also all in the library.

Theatre & The City (Jen Harvie)
Theatre & Audience (Helen Freshwater)
Theatre & Politics (Joe Kelleher)
Theatre & Feeling (Erin Hurley)

We will also watch some theatre online before we head to London, in order to practice the theatre-reading skills the above books will help us to develop. Each of these online performances is available for you to watch at home prior to class. Please check the schedule below for details about when to see these.

Finally, as part of your pre-departure assessment for the course, I am asking you to see one piece of theatre on your own this winter term. You can, of course, see anything you like, here in London (Ontario), Stratford (Ontario), Toronto, or beyond, but in the interests of saving time and money, I recommend that you consider either work at the Grand downtown or one of the student shows taking place this winter, such as *Purple Shorts*, the Arts and Humanities Student Council production of *The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza* (at the TAP Centre for Creativity), or *Chicago* (Theatre Western, at the Mustang Lounge).

At the Grand Theatre in downtown London ON this winter:
Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*
Jan 22 to Feb 9, 2019

Vigilante
Feb 19 to Mar 9, 2019

August Wilson's *Fences*
Mar 19 to Apr 6, 2019

At the McManus Theatre:
Moliere's *Tartuffe*
Mar 20 to 23, 2019

Methods of Evaluation:
Your grade in TS3900G will consist of the following parts:

- Two posts to our public "Destination Theatre" blog (10% each; 20% total)
- Two short reflection papers, based on your independent theatre/performance viewing (15% each; 30% total)
- Final project (30%)
- Participation (20%)
- Pre-departure online modules (mandatory)

PLEASE NOTE: If you are in fourth year, AND you wish to graduate in June 2019, I will need to receive all of your course work by Thursday 11 April, including your final project. You will of course be free to continue contributing to our class blog and participating actively throughout our June experience in England, but your final mark for the class will need to be submitted to the registrar before we leave. This will require YOU to be active in ensuring your work is complete and with me before term's end.

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.

The Specifics:
1. TWO BLOG POSTS
Length: 500 words each
Value: 10% per post; 20% of final grade
Due: first post winter term; final post during our June experience in London unless you plan to graduate in June.

Method of submission: by email to Jo, for light copyediting, then returned to and posted to our blog by you.

Destination Theatre is an opportunity for you to indulge your love of live performance, to expand your world as we travel to a major global city together, and to discover aspects of yourself that you may never have considered before. Using theatre as our touchstone, we will together become fledgling global citizens. What will this experience mean, to each of us? What will it teach us?

Twice over the course of DT you'll reflect on these and related questions on our public blog (https://destinationtheatre.wordpress.com).

In your first post, reflect on what brought you to Destination Theatre, what you hope to learn from the experience, what questions you have before we go to England, and what you are unsure about. Use correct grammar and punctuation but treat the post as an opinion piece rather than an academic essay.

In your second post, reflect on one of the experiences in England. Consider how the experience changed your ideas about some of the topics we discussed in class during the winter term. This is the more academic post, so be sure to engage with some secondary source material and to present a clear argument or searching critical question.

Images are welcome, for both posts. Be creative! Remember to think about copyright.

If you wish, you may complete one of these posts in pairs. If you choose to do so your post should be approximately 800-1000 words long and should demonstrate a shared voice and shared reflections. Both members of a pair will receive the same grade.

2. TWO SHORT REFLECTION PAPERS
Length: 750 words
Value: 15% per paper; 30% of final grade
Due: paper one is due Thursday 28 March; paper two is due either Thursday 11 April (if you are graduating in June) or Friday 12 July (everyone else)
Method of Submission: via OWL

For each of these papers you will analyze a work of live theatre using a critical lens borrowed from one of our course readings. (So, for example: you might see *Fences* at the Grand, and then use one aspect of Joe Kelleher's argument in *Theatre & Politics* to talk about how this production explores the politics of race and family in America. [This is just an example.])

You must a use different reading (that is, a different book) for each of your reflections.

If you are graduating in June, you should see two pieces of theatre in the winter term and use each of these to complete both reflection tasks by 11 April.

If you are not graduating in June, one of these reflections should be based on your independent winter-term theatre viewing, and the other should be based on a piece of live theatre you see during our experience in the UK (with the class, or not, as you prefer).

3. FINAL PROJECT
Length: 2000 words, or 6-8 minutes of audio/video (your choice of format)
Value: 30% of final grade
Due: Thursday 11 April (if you are in fourth year and wish to graduate in June); Friday 12 July (everybody else)
Method of Submission: via OWL

Your final project will combine your own interests/areas of study with some aspect of the work we will have done in class / will do during our experience in England. It will be conceived and shaped by you, in consultation with Jo.

Your interests (what do you want to do? What are you curious about exploring further?) will shape the direction your project takes; Jo will help you determine what form your project might evolve into (an essay? A performance pitch/proposal? A report? A video? Something else?) as well as what research areas you might want to consider as you develop it.

You should plan to use our time in London (UK) to inform your project and influence its path; after seeing theatre in and experiencing the city, your project may take a fresh turn – and that's just fine.

Every project will look and feel different; this open-endedness might sound scary now, but it will, I promise, give you the chance to exercise scholarly creativity like you've rarely had before. To ensure you make the most of the opportunities this task presents for you, you should begin speaking to Jo about possible avenues of investigation after reading week, and no later than mid-March.

4. PARTICIPATION
Length: ongoing
Value: 20% of final grade

This class is about having an experience unlike that an everyday classroom affords. It's a chance for us to work together to expand our horizons, test our boundaries, and shift our comfort zones. In order to do that safely we will work toward becoming a community during winter term, and we will act as an ad-hoc family during our time in the UK.

All this means that participation is crucial: you need to come to every winter term meeting, on time and prepared; you need to take part in the exercises and workshops we do in class; you need to visit Jo regularly in order to talk about your blog posts, readings, papers, and/or final project – anything you aren't sure about or need to think in more detail about. Jo is available to support your work, but YOU also need to be engaged, and you need to be involved.

In London, you'll need to take care of and support each other. You will need to keep each other safe and help each other make smart choices. You will need to take responsibility for one another. You'll need to help each other have fun!

Jo's goal is to give everyone 100% for participation – REALLY. If you're worried that you are not doing what you need to be doing in order to achieve that goal, speak to her.

Note the one incontrovertible rule regarding participation: if you miss more than THREE sessions (during winter term and/or during our London intensive, combined) without accommodation, you will forfeit your participation mark. Really. (You don't want to do that!)

5. PRE-DEPARTURE ONLINE MODULE
Western International's pre-departure online module is delivered through OWL and will be live from mid-January. It's engaging, interactive, and fun, and it's filled with case studies, information, and quizzes. You access it in your own time and you can refer back to it at any time. There are seven modules, and each module will take about 20 minutes to complete ("Critical and Ethical Global Engagement" is a bit longer, as it includes case studies, but the other modules are shorter than 20 minutes).

Please note that although there isn't a grade for this module, its completion is compulsory for each student. You are asked to complete it one month before departure (Western International tracks through OWL your successful completion of each module), and you won't be allowed to

join the course in London until it's done, despite having paid your fees, as you'll be in breach of contract. Western International is serious about this. On the upside, you'll be provided with plenty of useful and even essential information, which will help make our trip a huge success!

6. THE FINE PRINT

Late assignments are penalized at 2% per day.

Submissions more than seven days late will be eligible for a grade of no more than 50%.

Jo cannot grant you an extension. If you have a medical or compassionate reason for requiring accommodation, please see your home faculty's academic counselors as soon as possible. They will contact Jo to request accommodation on your behalf.

All written, video, or performance material you pass in must be your own work, with all references clearly documented. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may be punishable with sanctions up to and including expulsion from the university. If you're unsure whether or not you are citing your sources correctly, just ask Jo.

Timetable

Note that we will meet every second week in winter term; that will amount to 14 contact hours before our intensive in London UK. In the UK, we will spend a minimum of 32 contact hours together (four hours per day, four days per week, over two weeks), and together these periods of time will equal one half-course equivalent.

Week 1 | January 10
Welcome! Introduction to the course and each other; what's happening when we go to London? What does it mean to say that theatre does "work" in a city? READ: your syllabus (during and after class)!

Week 2 | January 17
NO CLASS

Week 3 | January 24
READ: Harvie, Theatre & The City
Group research into theatre opportunities while we are in London

Week 4 | January 31
NO CLASS

Week 5 | February 7
READ: Freshwater, Theatre & Audience
WATCH: *Much Ado About Nothing,* dir. Josie Rourke (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 6 | February 14
NO CLASS

Week 7 | READING WEEK!

Week 8 | February 28
READ: Kelleher, Theatre & Politics
WATCH: *A Doll's House*, dir. Carrie Cracknell (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 9 | March 7
NO CLASS

Week 10 | March 14
Pre-departure workshop with Eunice Isidro (mandatory)

Week 11 | March 21
READ: Hurley, Theatre & Feeling
WATCH: *Death of a Salesman*, dir. Alex Seagal (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 12 | March 28
NO CLASS
Reflection paper #1 due

Week 13 | April 4
Final class meeting before departure! Logistics, questions, details.
Discussion of final projects in process. Course evaluations + cake.

Week 14 | April 11
Reflection paper #2 due (for June-graduating fourth-years)
Final project due (for June-graduating fourth-years)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, IN LONDON UK, WEEK 1
Note that this schedule is tentative; a complete, comprehensive schedule will be made available to you before the end of winter term.

Weekend of June 15-16: arrival and orientation at Queen Mary, University of London. Plan to arrive Saturday in order to get settled. (NB: QMUL is at Mile End tube station, approximately 75 minutes from Heathrow airport and two hours from Gatwick airport.)

Monday through Sunday, June 17-23:*
Morning sessions with Jo, 9:30-11:30, on campus at QMUL
Afternoon sessions with guest lecturers and artists, 1-3pm, and/or matinee performances

Dates and shows in London (provisional)
Monday 17 Jun 2019 7:30PM: *Tina--The Tina Turner Musical* at Aldwych Theatre, *Les Miserables* at Queen's Theatre, *Wicked* at Apollo Victoria Theatre, *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* at Apollo Theatre, OR *Toast* at the Other Place (new fringe play)

Tuesday 18 Jun 2019 7:30PM: *Wife* at the Kiln Theatre, with after show talk

Wednesday 19 Jun 2019 7:30PM: *Small Island* at the Olivier, National Theatre

Thursday 20 Jun 2019: Globe show and tour?

Friday 21 Jun 2019: *Death of a Salesman* at the Young Vic

Saturday 22 Jun 2019: Free night

Sunday 23 Jun 2019: *Witness for the Prosecution* at London County Hall

Monday 24 Jun 2019 Free night

Tuesday 25 Jun 2019 Travel to Stratford upon Avon

Wednesday 26 Jun 2019 matinee: *Venice Preserv'd* at the Swan

Thursday 27 Jun 2019 7:30PM: *The Provok'd Wife* at the Swan

Friday 28 Jun 2019 7:30PM: *Measure for Measure* at RST

Saturday, June 29: Coach travel at 3pm back to QMUL residence.

Sunday 30 June: class ends; departure from QMUL residence.

*You can expect, as a group, to see a total of EIGHT – NINE shows over the course of our two weeks in London and Stratford; these will typically take place in the evenings. You may choose to see additional shows on your own; I'd recommend going to at least two more things. Jo, and the QMUL staff and students, can offer advice.

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.