

Indigenous Theatre and Performance Studies Theatre Studies 3209G Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Pauline Wakeham
University College Room 4413
pwakeham@uwo.ca
519.661.2111 x85815

Class Delivery Method: This course will be taught through synchronous online class lectures and discussion conducted two times a week at the regularly scheduled class times.

Office Hours: Due to the pandemic, all office hours will be conducted by appointment via Zoom.

Class Date/Time: Mondays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Course Description:

Welcome to Indigenous Theatre and Performance Studies! This course will provide students with an introduction to the dynamic work of Indigenous performance arts. Our course will consider how Indigenous theatre and performance builds upon rich histories and practices of embodied oral storytelling specific to distinct Indigenous nations across Turtle Island (North America). Drawing upon these rich histories and traditions, contemporary Indigenous artists often reinvent them in new forms including drama, performance art, and film. Engaging with a range of performance works created over the past several decades, this course will provide an understanding of the development of Indigenous theatre and performance across the land now called Canada and will consider Indigenous performance art's vital role in addressing contemporary socio-political issues and contributing to Indigenous resurgence.

Prerequisite(s) for TS 3209:

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): N/A

University Policy:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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 Objectives:

- To introduce students to and/or enrich their knowledge of Indigenous theatre and performance on Turtle Island.
- To consider how the study of Indigenous theatre and performance is enhanced by an attention to Indigenous ways of knowing and, in particular, Indigenous practices of storytelling and their vital importance to many Indigenous communities.
- To learn about the history of settler colonialism in Canada and its impact upon Indigenous nations. As well, this course will consider how Indigenous peoples have utilized cultural practices and arts to resist assimilation and to foster resurgence in their communities.
- To foster reflexive thought about engaging with Indigenous arts in respectful and culturally attentive and sensitive ways.
- To assist students in honing their critical thinking skills through in-class application of such skills to readings of dramatic texts and performances.
- To foster the development and honing of students' academic writing skills through the provision of feedback on written assignments.
- To foster the development of students' distinctive intellectual voices through the practice of engaged listening and participation in dramatic performances and class discussion.

Course Materials:

Kevin Loring, *Where the Blood Mixes* (Talon Books)

Drew Hayden Taylor, *AlterNatives* (Playwrights Canada Press)

Custom Course Book (Available at the University Bookstore. Please note: this text will include the following plays: Monique Mojica's *Princess Pocahontas and the Blue Spots*, Daniel David Moses' *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, and De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group's *The Gift*.)

More Information to Follow Soon!