

ARTHUM 3390/Theatre 3581/English 3581
“Toronto: Culture and Performance”
Winter 2021 (synchronous online)

Hello friends!

I hope you're each having a restful, restorative holiday break. When we return to “virtual” campus in January, I'm looking forward to meeting you all online-in-person. Until then, I'm writing with information about what to expect from the COVID edition of our class.

The 411

TOCaP is about the living, breathing, contemporary theatre ecology in Toronto and region. We'll be interested in what theatre has to do with such things as economics, social justice work (including the work of anti-racism and decolonization), urban renewal, and much more. And, of course, because COVID, we'll be spending plenty of time talking about the ways the pandemic has shifted things for better and worse, and we'll be talking to artists directly about what they are doing and how they are surviving.

I'm in talks right now with representatives from Native Earth Performing Arts, Nightwood Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Manidoons Collective, and Pandemic Theatre (not a joke! They precede COVID!) about streaming materials and visits to class. I'll have all the details on the goodies for you up on our OWL site by early January.

Format

Our class would *normally* meet 3 hours/week on Thursdays, from 5:30-8:30pm. This timing is to accommodate five live theatre visits, which means 5/13 weeks would be shared theatre visits, with a further sixth week dedicated to a workshop on theatre reviewing.

To adjust for COVID, we'll be doing the following:

1. All our viewing will happen online; most if not all of this will be asynchronous/on your own time.
2. Class time will be reduced accordingly, and also because ZOOM FATIGUE. Expect us to meet from 5:30-6:50pm, synchronously, on Thursdays.
3. Many classes will feature guest artists as visitors; I'm also hoping to secure a TO-area reviewer to join us on Zoom for a workshop on reviewing theatre online!
4. Your course fees, which normally would be used to pay for theatre tickets and transportation to/from venues for everyone, this year will be used to compensate artists for their time visiting our class, and/or for the work they will make available to our class for streaming. Any money left over after covering those course costs will be reimbursed to you directly through the registrar's office.

More questions? Don't hesitate to email me: ksolga@uwo.ca

See you soon!

Professor Kim (Solga) – you can call me Kim :-)