Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media

THEATRE Courses (tentative)
2020-2021

(PLEASE NOTE: this course list is subject to change without notice. Please see Aurora Class Schedule for up-to-date information.)

6 credit hour courses spanning BOTH Fall and Winter terms

**THTR 1220**  
Introduction to Theatre  
Fall + Winter (6)  
Multiple sections / instructors

**THTR 2150**  
Theatrical Techniques: Onstage  
Fall + Winter (6)  
Dr. Margaret Groome / Dr. William Kerr

Advanced acting and an introduction to the fundamentals of directing. Lectures on dramatic and theatrical theory, and the analysis of representative plays; workshops on acting and directing, including the presentation of scenes; participation in theatre productions.

This course has two major objectives. The first is to undertake advanced level work to help students develop their art and craft as actors, building upon the fundamental work done in Introduction to Theatre THTR 1220. In the first term of the course Professor Groome will undertake intensive acting exercises, monologue work and scene work with the students, working for six weeks on material from Chekhov and then for seven weeks on material from Shakespeare. The second major objective of the course will be undertaken primarily in the second term: under the guidance of Professor Kerr students will be introduced to fundamental principles of play direction, using material from the contemporary theatre. The students will also continue to develop their skills as actors, focusing on this material. The course requires major participation in one Theatre Program production as director or actor, and the direction of two scenes with first year students in addition to directing and acting scene work in class.

**THTR 2160**  
Theatrical Techniques: Backstage  
Fall + Winter (6)  
TBA

3 credit hour FALL COURSES

**THTR 2600**  
Special Studies 1: Political Theatre  
Fall (3)  
Dr. William Kerr

Through study and practice, this course will examine political theatre through a selection of plays and practitioners such as Augusto Boal, Bertolt Brecht, Edward Bond, Caryl Churchill,
Dario Fo and others. We will look at and discuss the nature, methods and effectiveness (or lack of it) of several types of political theatre. And we will question what constitutes the “political” in any theatre. In order to study political theatre through a thorough and real engagement in the practice of it, a core section of the course will be taking the texts and methods we have studied in the classroom and enacting them in the rehearsal hall, requiring the students to text theory in practice and to choose how they will create theatre that will make a political impact.

**THTR 2600 XENGL  Special Studies 1: Women and Theatre**
Fall (3)  Dr. Margaret Groome

This course will focus on the work of women as playwrights in Western Theatre and the ways in which their work may be considered “feminist.” The course will therefore include discussion of the political and ideological contexts of the works’ production and reception. The relationship of feminist dramatic and theatre criticism to feminist theories in other fields - such as literary studies and film studies - will be taken up to provide a framework for the inquiry. Major concerns include the styles or strategies of writing specific to the female experience and the response of the critical community to the work of women playwrights. Rather than undertaking an historical survey of women’s writing for the theatre, there will be a sampling of the work of playwrights that will range across several centuries. While the major focus of the course is on the work of women as playwrights, in the final four weeks of the course we will consider key issues related to the work of women as actors and directors. Playwrights to be studied include Aphra Behn, Elizabeth Robbins, Caryl Churchill, Pam Gems, Marsha Norman, and Nina Raine, among others.

**THTR 3470  Text and Performance: The Theatrical World of George Bernard Shaw**
Fall (3)  Katrina Dunn

This course builds upon the acting methods learned in Theatrical Techniques: Onstage THTR 2150. Exploring the body of work of George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) the class offers student actors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the plays and characters of the most important British dramatist of the first half of the twentieth century. Intensely vocal and political, Shaw was at the forefront of the social debates that animated the turbulent times in which he lived, and his plays were often vehicles for his own controversial viewpoints and ideas. His unique “Shavian” perspective also has an important Canadian connection through Ontario’s Shaw Festival, which has been at the forefront of defining his legacy through the annual production of selections from his more than sixty plays. Students will explore a sampling of Shaw’s play texts through performance, reflection, and discussion, and learn to play in the distinct physical and vocal style associated with his work. The class will culminate in a public performance of an assemblage of scenes from the class crafted into a unified whole by the instructor and participating students.
WINTER COURSES

THTR 3610 xENGL  Special Studies 3: Samuel Beckett’s Theatre and the End of Modernity
Winter (3)  Dr. Fernando de Toro

THTR 3610 xENGL  Special Studies 3: Ecocritical Theatre
Winter (3)  Katrina Dunn

Through the frame of ecocriticism, the study of the relationship between human cultural expressions and the environment, this course will investigate a selection of plays that treat environmental issues. We will begin with late nineteenth century European drama, in which rapid technological and cultural changes were paralleled by the rapid renewal of theatrical environments by a series of playwright innovators. Plays by Henrik Ibsen, Anton Chekhov and Samuel Beckett will enable reflection on differing views of nature, and allow consideration of materialism, dehumanization, exploitation and deception. In the mid-twentieth century our focus will shift to the emergence of an ecological perspective in Canadian drama, looking both at traditional scripted works and postdramatic and site-specific performances. Through these plays and related interdisciplinary readings, the class will study the interplay between science and culture, and assess the social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of the environmental crisis. We will debate the role of the theatre in dramatizing social and environmental issues and pursuing ecological preservation.