

THFM-3402-050

CANADIAN DRAMA AND THEATRE

Winter 2015
TTh 5:30-6:45 pm
Room 1M28

Ashley Majzels
Office: 4T06
Phone: 204-258-3811
E-Mail: a.majzels@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours: Th 3:30-5:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is dedicated to the study of Canadian plays written in the last forty years, interspersed with lectures and readings on the history of the Canadian theatre from 1606 to the present.

TEXTS

Jerry Wasserman, ed., *Modern Canadian Plays*, vols. 1 and 2. **4th edition**

REQUIRED READINGS NOT IN TEXTBOOK

The Task of the Translator. Walter Benjamin – widely available

Receiving Aboriginality: Tomson Highway and the Crisis of Cultural Authenticity. Alan Filewod
Theatre Journal , Vol. 46, No. 3, Colonial/Postcolonial Theatre (Oct., 1994), pp. 363-373

notes of a coloured girl: 32 short reasons why i write for the theatre. Djanet Sears – widely available

GRADING

Research paper (due Feb 12, 2014)	20%
Introduction Essay (due Mar 12, 2014)	40%
Final Examination (TBA)	40%
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted.

Attendance will be taken each class.

Unexcused absences are assessed a penalty; 1% will be deducted from the final grade per occurrence.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 - 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 - 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 - 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C+	65 - 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A-	80 - 84.9%	GPA	4.0	C	60 - 64.9%	GPA	2.0
B+	75 - 79.9%	GPA	3.5	D	50 - 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B	70 - 74.9%	GPA	3.0	F	below 50%	GPA	0

Work not submitted will be graded as 0.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan	6	Introduction	
	8	Reading: <u>Introduction, <i>Modern Canadian Plays</i></u>	
	13	<u><i>Les Belles Sœurs</i></u>	
	15	Reading: <u>Walter Benjamin's <i>The Task of the Translator</i></u>	
	20	<u><i>Polygraph</i></u>	
	22	Discussion	
	27	<u><i>The Ecstasy of Rita Joe</i></u>	
	29	<u><i>The Occupation of Heather Rose</i></u>	
Feb	3	<u><i>Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing</i></u>	
	5	Discussion – Ethics in Representation	
	10	Discussion – Reading: <u>Alan Filewod's <i>Receiving Aboriginality</i></u>	
PAPER	12	Discussion – Canadian National Drama	PAPER DUE
	17	NO CLASS – Reading Week	
	19	NO CLASS – Reading Week	
	24	<u><i>Leaving Home</i></u>	
	26	Discussion – Canadian Identity	
Mar	3	Final Date to withdraw without Academic penalty	
	3	<u><i>1837: The Farmers' Revolt</i></u>	
	5	Discussion – History Plays	
	10	<u><i>Lion in the Streets</i></u>	
ESSAY	12	Discussion	ESSAY DUE
	17	<u><i>Drag Queens on Trial</i></u>	
	19	Discussion - GLBTQ* theatre in Canada	
	24	<u><i>Fronteras Americanas</i></u>	
	26	Discussion – Borders	
	31	<u><i>Harlem Duet</i></u> and <u><i>notes of a coloured girl</i></u>	
Apr	2	Conclusion	
		Final Exam - TBA	

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the Winter dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am-5:30 pm weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/research-human-ethics> for submission requirements and deadlines."

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January and end in April, 2015 (Winter 2015 Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.