

Friends!

Thanks for considering Destination Theatre for your 2019-20 schedule! This is your Prof Kim speaking!

In winter/spring 2020, Destination theatre will once again be going to London, UK.

Below you'll find a sample Destination Theatre syllabus (from winter 2017, the last time I taught the course). Our winter/spring 2020 syllabus will look slightly different – I'll be creating it in the autumn of 2019 – but in the meantime this sample will give you a sense of how the course is structured, the kinds of readings you're likely to encounter, and the assignments you'll be doing.

What shows will we see? We'll know soon! London's theatres will release their 2019-20 and summer 2020 any minute now, and there will be loads of great options to choose from. To ensure we get some of the best shows on offer, I will book four of eight shows for us before our class officially begins in January 2020; the other four shows we will select together in early February.

Want more theatre than JUST EIGHT SHOWS in TWO WEEKS? No problem! You'll be free some evenings and afternoons to add in matinees and other treats; once we have our roster of course shows booked, you can get busy filling in the gaps. There's never a shortage to choose from!

The cost of Destination Theatre is holding steady for this coming year at \$2500; that covers your accommodation at the beautiful urban campus of Queen Mary, University of London, some meals, all our course theatre tickets, and our long weekend in Stratford-on-Avon at the Royal Shakespeare Company. You should budget for your flight, ground transport in London, and sundries as well as spending money.

Excited?! I'm thrilled to be teaching this exhilarating, eye-opening course again and I hope to share my journey with you. Questions meanwhile? Email me at ksolga@uwo.ca, or drop into my office in the autumn term. My office hours will be Tuesdays 1-3pm, or by appointment.

See you in (THE OTHER) London!

Kim

Theatre 3900G: Destination Theatre!

Winter 2017

Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm (AHB 2B04)

1. Course Description

We're going to London! One of the Anglophone world's greatest theatre cities, and one of global capitalism's most important "world" cities. It's a strange time in the UK right now: in June 2016 Brits voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union, a choice that has thrown the financial and political motors of globalized Britain into turmoil. London is a world city in flux, today – but it remains a city powered by cultural as well as economic capital. What work does theatre and performance do in London in 2017? How do the performing arts touch and affect its many different spaces, cultures, and citizens?

These are just a few of the questions we'll explore as we prepare to travel to, and immerse ourselves in, performing London.

2. Meet your Teaching Team!

Instructor: Dr Kim Solga (ksolga@uwo.ca; 519-661-2111 x80118. Don't call me.)

Kim's office and hours: AHB 3G14; Tuesdays 2:30-4:30pm; Thursdays 12-1pm

NOTE: Kim doesn't check her UWO email on weekends. Any messages received after 6pm on Friday will be addressed first thing Monday morning. This ALSO means that *nothing* for our class is so urgent that you need to worry about it over the weekend – weekends are for self-care. Enjoy them!

3. Our course on the web

We will use OWL, but only for the basics: written assignment submission; announcements and messages; returning assignments 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!

Kim also writes a teaching blog. It's kinda fun. She might write about our class sometimes. Check it out: <http://theactivistclassroom.wordpress.com>

4. Objectives and Outcomes

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, 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.

5. Required 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, and accessible via Course Readings on OWL; I will ask no questions if you turn up with photocopies.

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 via Course Readings in OWL (check the schedule 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, in LonON, Stratford, 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 shows taking place on campus this winter: *Purple Shorts* (Theatre Western), *Antigone* (AHSC), or *A Chorus Line* (Theatre Western).

Note that the Grand makes discounted tickets for select performances available to Western Theatre Studies students; the discount works as follows:

Enter promo code WESTERNTS to buy tickets for \$29.95.

Restrictions

- Offer applicable to A and B seating
- Select dates only
- Maximum two tickets per performance per purchase
- Offer cannot be combined with another promotion
- Not valid on previously purchased tickets
- No refunds or exchanges
- Tickets can only be picked up at the Box Office
- Purchaser must show valid UWO student ID (tell them you are in Destination Theatre, TS3900, with Kim)

Select from among these performances

The Lion in Winter

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 11 – 7:30pm

Thursday, Jan. 12 – 7:30pm

Saturday, Jan 14 – 8pm

Sunday, Jan 15 – 2pm

Vigilante (Note from Kim: this show is going to be GREAT)

Tuesday, Feb 7 – 7:30pm

Art

Tuesday, Feb. 21 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, Feb. 22 – 7:30pm

Thursday, Feb. 23 – 7:30pm

Saturday Feb. 25 – 8pm

Sunday, Feb. 26 – 2pm

The Colony of Unrequited Dreams

Tuesday, Mar. 21 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, Mar. 22 – 7:30pm

Thursday Mar. 23 – 7:30pm

Saturday, Mar. 25 – 8pm

Sunday, Mar. 26 – 2pm

Colours in the Storm

Tuesday, Apr. 18 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, Apr. 19 – 7:30pm

Thursday, Apr. 20 – 7:30pm

Saturday Apr. 22 – 8pm

Sunday, Apr. 23 – 2pm

6. Assessment

The Basics

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%)

PLEASE NOTE: if you are in fourth year, AND you wish to graduate in June 2017, I will need to receive all of your course work by Thursday 6 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 London, 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.

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 your plan to graduate in June

Method of submission: by email to Kim, 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, you'll reflect on what brought you to Destination Theatre, what you hope to get from it, and what you perhaps fear, or are perhaps unsure about, as we begin our journey together. This post will be personal, but should still incorporate proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. It should read a bit like a "comment" piece for the *Gazette*; imagine you are writing for your friends, peers, maybe some teachers and parents. Imagine an audience for your writing, then address that audience.

In your second post, you will reflect on one of the experiences we will share together in London: a theatre visit, a city walk or away trip, or perhaps a presentation from one of our guest experts. Here, you should emphasize how your chosen experience has encouraged you to think in a new, fresh way about something we discussed in class during winter term. You should incorporate some secondary material into this post - maybe one of our readings, something from your final project research, reviews of the performance you're discussing, etc. Think of this as the more "academic" of the two posts, but note that you are still addressing a public audience; it's not as formal, nor as argument-based, as an essay would be, but it has a strong critical dimension.

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 23 March; paper two is due either Thursday 6 April (if you are graduating in June) or Friday 14 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 *Vigilante* at the Grand, and then use one aspect of Joe Kelleher's argument in *Theatre & Politics* to talk about how it politicizes local London history. [This is just an example.]

You must use a 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 7 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 London (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 6 April (if you are in fourth year and wish to graduate in June); Friday 14 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 London. It will be conceived and shaped by you, in consultation with Kim.

Your interests (what do *you* want to do? What are *you* curious about exploring further?) will shape the direction your project takes; Kim 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.

For those of you completing your final project after our London experience, Kim will help you connect with scholars, artists, companies and others in the UK who might be of use and support as you work. You should plan to use our time in London 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. **In order to ensure you make the most of the opportunities this task presents for you, you should begin speaking to Kim 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 London.

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 Kim 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. Kim is available to support your work at all times, in and out of class, 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!

Kim'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. 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%.

Kim 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 Kim 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 Kim.

7. Week by week schedule, winter term meetings

Note that we will meet *every second week* in winter term; that will amount to 14 contact hours before our intensive in London. In London 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 5

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!

Week 2 | January 12
NO CLASS

Week 3 | January 19

READ: Harvie, *Theatre & The City*

First pre-departure workshop with Melissa Ostrowski (mandatory); group research into theatre opportunities while we are in London

Week 4 | January 26
NO CLASS

Week 5 | February 2

READ: Freshwater, *Theatre & Audience*

WATCH: *As You Like It*, Shakespeare's Globe (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 6 | February 9
NO CLASS

Week 7 | February 16

READ: Kelleher, *Theatre & Politics*

WATCH: *A Doll's House*, dir. Carrie Cracknell (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 8 | READING WEEK!

Week 9 | March 2

Second pre-departure workshop with Melissa Ostrowski (mandatory)

Week 10 | March 9
NO CLASS

Week 11 | March 16

READ: Hurley, *Theatre & Feeling*

WATCH: *The Shipment*, dir. Young Jean Lee (Course Readings on OWL)

Week 12 | March 23
NO CLASS

Reflection paper #1 due

Week 13 | March 30

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

Week 14 | April 6

Reflection paper #2 due (for June-graduating fourth-years)

Final project due (for June-graduating fourth-years)

8. Week by week schedule, in London

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 17-18: 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 Thursday, June 19-22:*

Morning sessions with Kim, 9:30-11:30, on campus at QMUL

Afternoon sessions with guest lecturers and artists, 1-3pm, and/or matinee performances

Friday and Saturday, June 23 - 24:

Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon, and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

(We will attend a performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Titus Andronicus* as part of this visit)

Sunday June 25: FREE DAY

Monday June 26: FREE DAY

Tuesday through Friday, June 27-30:*

Morning sessions with Kim, 9:30-11:30, on campus at QMUL

Afternoon sessions with guest lecturers and artists, 1-3pm, and/or matinee performances

Saturday 1 July: class ends; departure from QMUL residence.

**You can expect, as a group, to see a total of EIGHT shows over the course of our two weeks in London and Stratford, including our RSC outing on Friday 23 June; 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. Kim, and the QMUL staff and students, can offer advice; note also that the annual "Peopling the Palace" live art festival will be on at QMUL during our residency and we are welcome to attend as much of it as we wish.