

Department of English & Writing Studies
Theatre Studies Program

Theatre Studies 1020B
Performance is Everywhere
Winter 2025

Instructor: Prof M.J. Kidnie, UC4201
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TA: Alex Lukawski
TA Office hour: TH 1-2, UC3405

Office hours: M 1:30-2:30 and by
appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to concepts in Theatre Studies. The course includes hands-on and experiential learning.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Navigate library databases for texts and recorded productions
- Read drama as a blueprint for performance
- Translate an idea for performance into live performance
- Perform a basic theatrical analysis (scripted and in production)
- Describe some key practitioners' approaches to theatre as a political art

Course Materials

Brecht, "The Street Scene" (available free on BrightSpace)

Brecht and Weil, *Threepenny Opera* (free at Drama Online – performance and text)

Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project, *The Laramie Project* (text available at BookStore) – \$23 (second-hand copy fine)

Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* (text available at BookStore or free at Drama Online, second-hand copy fine)

Coriolanus, dir. Lepage (available free at Drama Online or Digital Theatre+)

Harvey Young, *Theatre and Race* (available at BookStore) – \$16.30 (second-hand copy fine)

Alice Childress, *Wedding Band* (available at BookStore or free through Weldon catalogue, second-hand copy fine) – \$25

Alice Childress, *Wedding Band* (dir. Sam White) – screened in class

Hamilton, dir. Thomas Kail (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHej85lf2Rg> or Disney+)

Heist, dir. Haysam Kadri, Grand Theatre (live performance) – \$29.95

Rosanna Deerchild, *The Secret to Good Tea*, dir. Renae Morriveau, Grand Theatre (live performance) – \$29.95

Grand Theatre backstage tour – free

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

First test (multiple choice and short answers): 20%

Second test (multiple choice and short answers): 20%

Final project: 25%

Exam (multiple choice and short answers): 35%

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Additional Information

Attendance will be taken each day; if you can't make class for some reason, please email M.J. to explain your absence. See the policy on attendance below.

Statements

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, requests for academic consideration pertaining to staged scenes in final two weeks of course **must** be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is not acceptable on this course.

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL Brightspace site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same

certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Academic Integrity Tutorial – January 17

Test 1 – Jan 29

Test 2 – March 10

In-class presentation – March 24-April 2

Exam

Jan 6 Introduction and welcome

Jan 8 Purposes of playing

Reading: Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Drama Online)

Jan 13 Theatre as Social Experiment

Reading: Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House* (Drama Online)

Jan 15 Political theatre

Reading: Brecht, "The Street Scene" (5-page essay – uploaded to BrightSpace)

Viewing: Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera* (Drama Online – 2 hours, 24 minutes)

Jan 17 – Academic Integrity Tutorial due

Jan 20 Headphone project – set up

Jan 22 Headphone project – put it together, performance, discussion

Note: Half the class will be in our usual room; the other half will be in FNB 2230.

Jan 27 *The Laramie project*

Viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1qiTmF0p4A> (1 hour, 35 minutes)

**JAN 28 7:30PM – HEIST at the Grand Theatre
Plus tour of the theatre 6-7pm
(booking instructions below)**

Jan 29 FIRST TEST (multiple choice, short answers). Post-performance discussion of *Heist*. Interview with Alex Rizkallah, Assistant Director (on zoom from England).

Feb 3 *Coriolanus*

Reading: Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* (text at BookStore or Drama Online)

Feb 5 *Coriolanus*

Feb 10 *Coriolanus*

Feb 12 *Coriolanus* (dir. Lepage modernization). Group work on staged scenes.

Viewing: Robert Lepage (dir.), *Coriolanus* (Drama Online or Digital Theatre+), 2 hrs, 30 minutes

Feb 17-21 READING WEEK

Feb 24 Harvey Young, *Theatre and Race*; Alice Childress, *Wedding Band*

Reading: Harvey Young, *Theatre and Race* (available at BookStore), Alice Childress, *Wedding Band* (available at BookStore and through Weldon catalogue)

Feb 26 Alice Childress, *Wedding Band*

Note: *Wedding Band* (dir. Sam White) will be screened in class

Mar 3 *Wedding Band*

**MAR 4 7:30PM – THE SECRET TO GOOD TEA at the Grand Theatre
Plus tour of the theatre 6-7pm
(booking instructions below)**

Mar 5 *The Secret to Good Tea*

Mar 10 SECOND TEST

Mar 12 *Hamilton*

Viewing: *Hamilton* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHei85lf2Rg> or Disney+), 2 hrs, 30 min

Mar 17 *Hamilton* and review

Mar 19 Group preparation for final project (M.J. in States)

Mar 24 FINAL PROJECTS (choice of project)

- 8-10 minute group staged scene (*Coriolanus*); scripts are permitted for the performance
- 8-10 minute roundtable discussion of one production with reference to criticism
- 3-5 minute production pitch for a new staging of one play – your project will include a stage design, costume and props designs, detailed discussion of your vision for the staging, and an account of why your choice of play needs a production now. Your project will be supplemented by a 1,200 word essay.
- 3-5 minute devised piece based on headphone project (record people's voices and transform it into a staged piece around a particular topic). You can work on this project in

pairs or solo, and you can either perform it live or submit a recording of your performance (scripts are permitted for the performance).

Mar 26 staged scenes

Mar 31 staged scenes

Apr 2 staged scenes and review for exam

EXAM DURING EXAM PERIOD

Grand Theatre – booking instructions

We're seeing two live performances at the Grand Theatre: *Heist* on Tuesday, January 28 (7:30pm) and *The Secret to Good Tea* on Tuesday, March 4. Price: \$29.95.

Book your ticket by visiting the Box Office at 471 Richmond Street to pay in person, or by calling 519-672-8800.

The theatre is holding 80 tickets for us for each of these evenings. Any un-booked tickets will be released 1 week in advance, and students who missed the deadline or wish to come on a different date can book a Student Rush ticket (same \$29.95 price).

The Grand is also offering students an optional and free tour of the backstage space before each show (6-7pm). I will circulate a sign-up list and students can choose their preferred date (only attend one tour).