

TRE/LIT 490 Theatre and Drama of Great Britain, 3 credit hours

London Fall Semester, 2015

Professor: Ronda Rice Winderl, Ph.D.

T 2:15-4:15pm + performances, Garden Room (8/11-9/22)

T 12:30-2:30pm + performances, Conference Room (10/6-11/16)

Office Hours: MW 10:15-11:15 am or by appt.

Phone: TBA in London (emergency)

Email: rondawinderl@pointloma.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to creatively expose and involve students in the dramatic literature and theatre practices of the British stage. How do the reading of plays and theatre attendance become a natural part of the cultural fabric of life? The course will investigate this phenomenon in Great Britain through study of the plays, playwrights, theatrical spaces, practices, educational approaches and organizations which have and continue to contribute to this heritage.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Experience in performance and analyze texts representative of changes in the form and structure of dramatic literature. Texts for study will be chosen from current offerings in London/Stratford theatres.
2. Observe and explain the historical development and current disposition of the London Stage.
3. Investigate and report on the history, organization, educational programs and repertory of major theatrical organizations in Great Britain (RNT, RSC, Shakespeare's Globe).
4. To discuss the symbiotic relationship between dramatic literature, theatre practice, and society.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Euripides, *Medea*; William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*; Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Nick Stafford, *Warhorse*; Timberlake Wertenbaker, *Our Country's Good*; *Time Out*, *the Guardian*, and/or *The London Times* Theatre Review sections each week.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class and provide approved documentation and verification of need. The Academic Support Center is available to students for a variety of tutorial needs.

COURSE PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance at all class sessions and class related field trips. Any unexcused absences will seriously impact your class participation points for the course, and 2 late arrivals count as an absence. We will need to start on time and need your full involvement in each class. Assignments, quizzes and reports are due and may be handed in/taken only on day assigned.
2. Active participation in class discussion, exercises, and projects.
3. Thorough reading, verbal analysis, and quiz on assigned texts. Bringing your books to class each session and taking careful notes are an essential and required part of preparation and participation.
4. Typed outline with 3 (minimum) print (non-web) source bibliography, and oral report (lecture/demo) on assigned research topic (see explanation and topics attached.) Outline/bibliography is to be turned in before presentation.
5. Primary source investigation and presentation of a group lecture/demonstration on an assigned topic dealing with the Contemporary British Theatre (Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, and Shakespeare's Globe). Performance application responses for 10 of approx. 14 plays attended and discussed. Typed response (1-2 pages) is due at the beginning of the class session following a performance. \$100 will be required for these 12-14 play tickets.
6. Comprehensive final exam over material in readings, lectures, class discussion and presentations.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell phones must be disabled during class (no texting, surfing) and laptops used for note-taking only (in the front row and visible to instructor, wi-fi disabled.) Other use will heavily impact the class participation portion of your grade.

Computation of Final Grade:

- 20% Performance application response papers (10)
- 20% Outline of research (w/bibliography) and topic presentation
- 20% Text quizzes and Final Exam
- 20% Group research presentations (lecture/demo)
- 20% Enthusiastic class participation and prompt attendance

COURSE SCHEDULE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
8/7	<i>Everyman</i> , Olivier Theatre, National Theatre 7:30pm	
8/8	<i>Plautus and Euripides adaptations, Women of Troy</i> at The Scoop, 6:00-10:15 pm	
8/10	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, 7:30	
8/11	Course overview, perf response papers, discuss <i>Everyman</i> and <i>Women of Troy</i>	<i>Much Ado</i> quiz: Discuss UK outdoor perf
8/13	<i>The Playboy of the Western World</i> , by JM Synge, Southwark Theatre, 8:00pm	and performance response papers

8/18	Oscar Wilde and Impt of Being Earnest report (4, Grace) 8/19 Shakespeare in Love screening (time tba)	Earnest quiz; Much Ado response Due (1)/ discussion
8/25	8/24 Importance of Being Earnest , Vaudeville Theatre (West End), 7:30pm Shakespeare's Comedies report (2, Scott), and inv teams Discuss Investigative Team Assignment; 20 quest and responsibilities 8/25 People, Places and Things , Dorfman Theatre, NT, 7:30 8/27 11:30-4:00 Shakespeare's Globe tour and Sh Center expl assg	Playboy resp (2)/discussion; Assg Sh Center 5 Discoveries about : 1.Theatre House 2. Players 3. Production 4. Audience
9/1	Our Country's Good and Wertenbaker report (Kaari, 7) 9/3 Tour of Royal National Theatre of Great Britain , 12:15pm	Country's Good quiz; Invest Team 20 question due Shakesp assg. Due; Earnest response due (3)
9/8	9/7 Our Country's Good , Olivier Theatre, NT, 7:30 Report on Andrew L Webber (Bethany, 8)	People, Places and Things response (4)
9/15	9/14 Jane Eyre , Lyttleton Theatre, National Theatre, 7:00pm Report on Euripedes and Medea (Ellen, 4) Team investigation and UK tour preparations	Medea Quiz; Country's Good resp due (5) Interviewee(s) name, #, and appt. time due
9/22	Report on Hamlet and Shakespeare's Tragedies (McClaren, 3) 9/19-9/28 British Exploration Tour! Street theatre Bizarre Bath , and tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatres as well as Shakespeare historic sites! RSC performances of Henry V and Hecuba .	Jane Eyre response due (6)
10/5	10:05-11:20 am Hamlet in focus with special guest, Dr. Carl Winderl	Hamlet Quiz, discussion
10/6	9:00-10:15am Hamlet focus continues in Garden Room	
10/6	12:30 UK tour review: Discussion of the RSC productions, Bizarre Bath 10/7 Hamlet , RSC film version with Patrick Stewart/David Tennant, 6:30pm	Henry V response due (7), discussion
10/13	Warhorse report (Hannelore, 6) 10/13 or TBA Warhorse at New Ambassador Theatre, 7:00	Warhorse Quiz; Hecuba (8) response, discuss
10/20	10/19 Medea , Almeida Theatre, 8:00 Report on Les Miserables and Victor Hugo (Sean, 5)	War Horse (9) response due and discussion
10/27	Research team final prep/preview 10/27 or TBA Les Miserables , Queen's Theatre, 7:30pm	Medea response due (10); discussion
11/3	Lecture/Demo Group presentations (RSC, RNT, Sh Globe,) 11/3 West End new hit- tba Harlequinade , ???theatre, 7:30	Group presentations and evaluation
11/10	Course overview, timeline and review questions due	Timeline due; Review Questions due
11/16	Final Exam	Final Exam

2015 TOPIC REPORTS FOR THEATRE AND DRAMA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Please select a topic and research it (consulting and citing at least three non-web sources, plus web-based), then prepare a typed outline of your findings with a detailed bibliography following MLA style. Based upon this research, then prepare a presentation of your research incorporating creative/ dramatic techniques and approaches (15 min. minimum). Involve class members whenever possible in your report and experiment with presentation styles, but you may not read or lecture to us! Select a topic which you have not previously studied, and make an appointment with Dr. W before your presentation date to discuss your presentation approach.

1. Life, times and works of Euripedes, with dramatic criticism/ social commentary of **Medea**, and Greek theatrical conventions. **Ellen**
2. Form and structure of Shakespeare's comedies, using **Much Ado** and **As You Like It** to illustrate these characteristics. **Scott**
3. Form and structure of Shakespeare's tragedies, using **Hamlet** and **Macbeth** to illustrate traits of this genre. **McClaren**
4. Life, times and works of Oscar Wilde with dramatic criticism of **The Importance of Being Earnest**, and comedy of manners. **Grace**
5. Overview of Victor Hugo's life, times, and works focusing on the social and political themes treated in **Les Miserables**. **Sean**
6. Life, times and works of Nick Stafford with dramatic criticism on **Warhorse**, exploring the adaptation/collaboration process. **Hanne**
7. Life, times and works of Timberlake Wertenbaker with dramatic criticism of **Our Country's Good**, as well as the contributions to contemporary theatre of director Nadia Fall. **Kaari**
8. Life, times and works of Andrew Lloyd Webber, with dramatic criticism of his most influential productions and his recent new works **Love Never Dies**, and **Stephen Ward**. **Bethany**

***For initial, introductory background on your topic, consult the [Encyclopedia of World Drama](#) (ref. section for plays and playwrights), Hartnoll's [Oxford Companion to the Theatre](#) (ref. Section), and Oscar Brockett's [History of the Theatre](#). Then pursue more specialized sources to amass the strong bibliography which will be essential to your research and report.