EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
THEATRE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Theatre
FA / THEA 4050 3.0 SECTION A
DEVISED THEATRE PERSPECTIVES
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 10/04/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Offers students in their final year of Devised Theatre an intensive curriculum in further perspectives of devised theatre exploration. Incorporating skill sets from the previous two years of training, this class will focus on advanced techniques for creating and performing original theatre works in a group setting, in preparation for a performance in the Devised Theatre Festival in the winter term. Prerequisites: Grade of B or better in FA/THEA 3051 3.00 and permission of the Theatre Department. Open to majors only. Note: Plus rehearsal hours.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garrett, Ian P.</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dobie, Gwenyth H.</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
THEA 4050 3.0, Fall 2017 Gwenyth Dobie (gdobie@yorku.ca) and Ian Garrett (igarret@yorku.ca)

1. **Special Features**
   - **Co-requisite:** It is required that all students must complete THEA 3150 3.0 Theatre Management or THEA 4150 3.0 Professional Aspects of Theatre before graduation.

2. **Prerequisites:**
   - FA/THEA 2050 3.0; FA/THEA1010 3.0; FA/THEA1100 3.0, FA/THEA1200 6.0, FA/THEA 3050 3.0, FA/THEA 3200 3.0 or by permission of the Department of Theatre.

• **Topics and Concepts**

THEA 4050 3.0 Devised Theatre Perspectives builds upon THEA 3050: Devised Theatre in Practice I, offering students an opportunity to devise new theatre work in a model that reflects current industry practice, both in structure and in methodology. Students will be formed into small production companies, which are tasked with creating a research-based devising model that will lead to a workshop presentation by the end of the semester with the aim to a full production developed in the Winter term. The instructors will introduce or clarify professional work methods and techniques, or view student work for feedback during the Wednesday class time. The Friday Laboratory session is for rehearsals. At least 1 additional time will be required for a successful outcome

1. **Learning Outcomes**

Specific objectives of the course are that the students will be able to:

• articulate the artistic and sociopolitical goals of their devising work
• apply more advanced devising techniques, including previous coursework, to create their original pieces
• enhance their conceptual and/or performance skills in their assigned theatre project
• develop their ability to offer and receive effective critical feedback about their own work and that of their classmates
• further develop confidence in their communication and collaboration skills in a group setting.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Subject to Change

September
  Friday September 8th - Meet and Greet.
  Wednesday September 13- Introduction to Coursework.
  Wednesday September 20- Practicum/ Work sessions
  Gwenyth & Ian - a class on Finding and Using Source Material to build your piece.
  Wednesday September 27 - Practicum/ Work sessions
  Ian - Introduction to design thinking and process

October
  Wednesday October 4th - Practicum/ Work sessions
  Gwenyth- Considerations of Space in the creation of your piece
  Wednesday October 11- Practicum/ Work sessions
  Due: Company Written Proposal
  Ian- Introduction to working with Light
  Wednesday October 18- Practicum/ Work sessions
  Gwenyth –Considerations of Tempo and Rhythm in creating your piece
  Wednesday October 25 SHOWING
  **5 Minute Showing** (5 minutes of devised work, leading towards your "final piece")
  Fall Reading Days: Oct. 26 – 29 (No classes, University Open)

November
  Wednesday November 1- Practicum/Work sessions (TBA)
  Wednesday November 8- SHOWING
  **10 Minute Showing** (10 minutes of devised work, leading towards your "final piece")
  Wednesday November 15- Practicum/Work sessions
  Ian leads a Pitch building workshop: writing a release, how to hone in on an idea to communicate it to a potential audience
  Wednesday November 22- SHOWING (with selected guests)
  **15 Minute Open Showing** (15-minute culmination of devised work, leading towards your “final piece”)
  Wednesday November 29 - Debrief of Open Showing
  DUE: Peer Evaluations
  DUE: Individual Written Summary of Research Contribution

Friday Lab- Establish work plan for the Winter DT Festival

1. Graded Assessment

2.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment/Showing Deadlines</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company Proposal for DT Production</td>
<td>October 11th</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Written Summary of Contribution</td>
<td>November 29th</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Individual contribution to development and showings ** Ongoing * 40%
Professionalism/Work Ethic*** Ongoing 20%

**Criteria for Grading- commitment, engagement, risk taking, specificity, range, depth of investigation, growth between showings
*** Peer Evaluations will be factored into your Professionalism/Work Ethic grade.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or AMPD grades distribution profiles.

1. **Additional Information** Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 9, 2018 Students will receive graded feedback on work totalling at least 15% of the course grade before the deadline for withdrawing from the course so they can make an informed decision on whether to withdraw. Note: Restrictions apply to grade reappraisal. See applicable information in the 2015/16 York University Undergraduate Calendar at http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/faculty_rules/FA/grading.htm. **Minimum Grade Policy for Devised Theatre Students:** Anyone leaving Devised Theatre for a period of one year or more, for whatever reason, even if in good academic standing, will be expected to re-apply to re-enter Devised Theatre unless a statement to the contrary has been received in writing from the Area at the time of withdrawal. The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ - 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) **Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, written assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment, as indicated in the class schedule. If hardcopy assignments are required, emailed submissions are not permitted; if email or online submissions are required, hardcopy will not be accepted.

2. **Late Submission Policy:**

3. For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/academic/grades/.

4. **Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests Grading:**

5. Students in the Devised Theatre must maintain a “B” or higher in order to be allowed to advance to the next term.

6. **Important:** The live performance component of any course is excluded from grade reappraisal.

7. If you have any unanswered questions or are unsure of your marks/progress during the course, please make an appointment with the course director. The responsibility is yours.

8. Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018
9. Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 10, 2017

   • Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one-half letter grade per day.

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course director but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

**Attendance Policy:**

**Absent and Late Penalty:** Students are reminded that Department of Theatre rules require attendance at all classes, rehearsals and performances. There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences—an absence is an absence and will affect your chances of success in this course.

All classes, rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Failure to attend all classes, rehearsals and performances will result in either academic penalty or a request that the student withdraw from the class or production. Any student in Devised Theatre who is absent or late without prior arrangement with the course director or production director for an excused absence or late (at the course director or production director’s discretion) may have 2% deducted from their final grade for each unexcused absence or lateness.

If a student is going to miss a class, rehearsal or performance due to illness, or be considerably late, the student must contact the course director or production director prior to the beginning of that class, rehearsal or performance. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence or lateness.

It is the responsibility of each student to follow up on any unexcused absence in person with the course director or production director. If a student is late for class, it is his or her responsibility to follow up on that
lateness with the course director in person on the class break or after class.

Part-time jobs or outside employment in theatre-related endeavors do not count as excused absences for Devised Theatre classes, rehearsals or performances.

Exceptions to the absence and/or lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertain by the course director or production director but will require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor’s letter).

Notwithstanding conflicts with rehearsals/performances of the production in which they are engaged, all students must attend all studio shows and Theatre@York productions. Failure to do may result in a 2% reduction of the final grade in your Devised Theatre class.

**Class Presentations**: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. In the discipline of devised theatre, absences have a profound effect on scene partners and class members. Accordingly, class presentations for this course must be performed on the due dates specified for the assignment, as indicated in the class schedule.

**Missed Class Presentation Penalty**: Missed class presentations on the due date will be penalized with a grade of zero for the absent student. Exceptions to the missed class presentation penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course director but will require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor’s letter). The course director will attempt to reschedule the missed class presentation to facilitate scene partners affected by an excused absence. Any student with an unexcused absence necessitating a rescheduled presentation will continue to receive a grade of zero for the presentation in question. Assigning an alternate scene partner may be implemented. Due to the collaborative nature of this studio course, make-up assignments will not be scheduled.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

**A Note on Challenging Content**

One of the central educational goals of the Theatre Department is to produce socially conscious artists — artists who are aware of and capable of participating in challenging dialogues about social injustice and inequality. This means that our courses, public events, and productions often grapple with difficult subject matter, including sex, violence, terror, and illness (among other topics). While these presentations will no doubt provoke strong emotions and cause discomfort, we feel that the diverse experiences they promote are also essential to the development of our students’ critical faculties, empathy, and understanding of the world. Rather than warning our students in advance about every potentially uncomfortable topic that they might encounter in the course of their studies, we instead encourage students to meet them head on in the classroom, in rehearsals, and performances, and to engage in civil and compassionate debate about the possibilities and effects of staging difficult knowledge.

If you require an accommodation related to your participation in Theatre experiences, please ensure that you share relevant documentation with your course director. Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

**ACADEMIC POLICIES / INFORMATION**: The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct
Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling

"20% Rule" - No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. [link]

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy -

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

** The Key Points of York's Policy on Academic Honesty **

York's Senate Policy on Academic Honesty affirms and clarifies the general obligation for all members of the University to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty.

In particular, the policy:
- Recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of students to be mindful of and abide by such standards;
- Defines the types of conduct that are regarded as offences against the standards of academic honesty, including plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, and other forms of academic misconduct;
- Defines the penalties that can be imposed on a student who is found to have committed plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct;
- Outlines the procedures for dealing with students who are accused of violating the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

**Note: a lack of familiarity with the Senate Policy cannot be used as a defence by those accused of academic misconduct.**

Range of Penalties for Plagiarism

When verified, violations of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties – imposed singly or in combination depending on the severity of the offence:
- Written disciplinary warning or reprimand
- Required completion of an academic honesty assignment
- Make-up assignment, examination or rewriting a work, subject to a lowered grade
- Lower grade on the assignment, examination or work
- Lower grade in the course
- Failure in the course
- Permanent grade of record
- Notation on transcript
- Suspension from the University
- Expulsion from the University
- Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate

If the offence is a second or subsequent one for the student, or is in combination with another offence, the Senate Policy recommends consideration of a severe penalty.
For further information on the penalties for academic misconduct, please see York's Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

**HARASSMENT GUIDELINES:** Sexual harassment is not anyone’s favourite topic, but we ask you to take a few minutes to read this section carefully. These guidelines explain what sexual harassment is, and what it is not, in the context of the Department of Theatre. We also hope to decrease any chance for misunderstanding surrounding activities, such as costume fitting, that are absolutely essential to the teaching and craft of theatre. What should you expect? What are the warning signals that something might be wrong?

As we know, theatre reflects life; and life has its share of sex, violence, murder, insanity, cruelty and terror, as well as romance and hilarity. To teach students to evoke an empathetic response in audiences involves the simulation of physical violence and dealing with strong emotions in the classroom, in rehearsals and in performances. Clearly, we cannot avoid these topics, so we meet them head-on in the classroom.

The York policy lists "unnecessary touching or patting" as behaviour indicative of sexual harassment. However, in the Department of Theatre, touching routinely happens in acting/directing classes and in costume fittings.

In acting, voice and movement classes, students will be touched in the abdomen, diaphragm area, rib cage, chest, spine, back, shoulders, limbs, neck and head to assist the student in proper breathing, relaxation of tensions, alignment or similar instruction. At no time should a teacher, without the student’s permission, touch those parts of a student’s body that would normally be covered by a two-piece bathing suit. At no time in an acting class will a student be asked to remove intimate apparel.

The removal of clothing, however, is integral to a costume fitting. Getting changed into or out of a costume is done in the privacy of a closed fitting room, but then the costume designer and/or the cutter building the costume will have to touch the costume (and therefore the student in the costume) anywhere that it needs fitting. The costume may also include undergarments that are not the student’s (e.g. corsets for women), that require the removal of the student’s own undergarments, and costume undergarments also require fittings. No students will be asked to put on or remove any item of underclothing in the presence of any other person.

A danger signal in physical contact could be unnecessarily prolonged touching, or touching body parts not involved in the current teaching. Students who feel uncomfortable about touch from the teacher, staff member or another student have a responsibility to speak to the teacher about opting out, or to discuss the problem with York’s Centre for Human Rights, South Ross, Suite 327, 416-736-5682 / TTY: 416-650-8023, rights@yorku.ca

As well as physical contact, there is also psychological contact and gender harassment. Sexual harassment can occur with no physical contact at all; psychological contact can therefore be a more difficult area to ascertain than physical contact since it involves words, intonations or body language. Theatre training must deal with sex. For example, some of the discussions needed in acting classes are of a sexually explicit nature. There is no way for students to fully explore the nature of acting without being honest, to some level, with their personal lives.

Gender harassment consists of derogatory or degrading remarks directed towards members of one gender or sexual preference group. These are most often directed at a woman, women in general, or homosexuals. Gender harassment is definitely sexual harassment.
If you feel that sexual harassment may have occurred, speak to the teacher, the class rep, your faculty advisor, or to the Centre for Human Rights, South Ross, Suite 327, 416-736-5682 / TTY: 416-650-8023, rights@yorku.ca

Sexual assault awareness and resources information is available on the York website and we encourage you to also carefully review this information.

You shouldn't ever feel guilty or be made to feel guilty about reporting a problem!

DISPUTES: The following steps are the steps to be taken in the event of unresolved issues within the class:
- If your class has a tutorial leader or studio instructor, speak to your instructor first.
- If unresolved, speak to the Course Director.
- If unresolved, contact the Chair of the Department at thechair@yorku.ca.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY SESSIONAL DATES (where you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm
Manage my Academic record http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/

- Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 10, 2017
- Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 9, 2018
- Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018

DEGREE STATUS – BA AND BFA: All students accepted into the Department of Theatre in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) enter as Specialized Honours BA Theatre-Theatre Studies majors. The first year is a program common to all Theatre students, and offers courses in Acting, Production/Design and Performance Creation & Research. At the end of the first year, there is a selection process (either by audition or interview) to proceed into the various areas of interest.

POLICY REGARDING LOSS, DAMAGE AND THEFT OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT AND BELONGINGS: The School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design at York University will not be held responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal equipment or any other personal belongings that are left in studios, classrooms, storage areas or any other space within the School. It is each individual’s responsibility to take care of their own property. Under no circumstances will the School incur liability for loss, damage or theft of such property.

Please take all reasonable measures to protect your personal belongings. If you do experience loss, damage or theft of personal property, please report it immediately to the Department of Security Services at (416) 736-5333 or extension 33333 from any University phone.
ROOM BOOKING POLICY: Rehearsals for mainstage productions take precedence when assigning rooms, followed by faculty assigned work. Personal projects, including playGround, will be considered only if space allows.

First-year Theatre majors are not eligible to book studios.

Adopt professional standards by agreeing on a rehearsal schedule with group members and by having one group member do the arranging of the space in advance. Please ensure that the floors and walls are clean. All garbage must be removed. Please treat the studios with respect.

The studios are available only within the following hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-10:00pm and Sat-Sun 10:00am-6:00pm

All spaces must be booked one week in advance and will be accepted only until 4:00pm on Thursday the previous week.

Requests will be confirmed Friday by 4:00pm.

Requests must be sent by e-mail only to rehearse@yorku.ca
Include your full name, student ID, program, brief explanation of what the space will be used for and what kind of space you need (studio / classroom / big / small).

Requests must be submitted each week for a room unless special arrangements have been made.

You cannot “claim” a space by writing in your name or the course name in an empty slot on the weekly schedules posted outside each space (exception – Light Lab CFT 153).

Spaces must be returned to neutral at the end of each booking session. There will be a picture of what “neutral” is in each studio.

The sign-off sheet must be checked and signed at the end of your studio time. If you enter a space and find it not “neutral”, please e-mail rehearse@yorku.ca.

Anything left behind in the spaces after your booking will be thrown out.

Procedures for use of studios after-hours: These procedures are designed to enhance the safety of authorized students when working alone in one of our studios after-hours - Monday through Friday from 11:00pm to 6:30am, and Saturday/Sunday from 10:00pm to 8:00am.

An After-Hours Use form will be completed and emailed to University Security at: scc@yorku.ca;

Be advised of the University’s emergency protocols (e.g. contact 911 in the event of a life threatening situation) and University Security’s urgent number (416.736.5333);

Contact University Security non-urgent number - 416.650.8000 - upon arrival and departure.
SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS: All site-specific theatre projects anywhere on campus must be cleared by the course director, York University’s Security Services, and the department or governing body of the proposed site. This request should be made in writing at least three weeks in advance of the date required.

All public spaces on Campus require contact with the Office of Temporary Use of University Space - http://tuus.info.yorku.ca/space-room-reservations-forms/

The course director will also need to complete a “Temporary Use of University Space Application and Notification Form” and submit it two weeks in advance of the date required.

For ALL site specific work, the course director must send the request to security@yorku.ca outlining where and when the work is to take place.

Please note: at no time shall any form of replica, prop, or real weapon (handguns, rifles, shotguns, swords, daggers, knives, etc) be used in any site specific work.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University