**EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**THEATRE**

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Theatre

FA / THEA 1200.6 SECTION A
INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 10/02/2018

**COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

Designed to introduce Theatre students to the key concepts and debates animating Theatre Studies today. Beginning with the overarching question "What is theatre and why/how do we study it?" students will explore a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to) audience, space, time, bodies, community, spectacle, history, and politics. The course will also introduce students to a range of theoretical and methodological approaches for studying theatre and performance, e.g. performance ethnography, theatre historiography, community activism, practice-based research, educational outreach. Students will have opportunities to work individually as well as collaboratively on written and performance projects. They will also become familiar with Toronto's lively theatre and performance ecology through visits to a wide range of performances over the course of the year. Corequisite: FA/THEA 1010 3.00, FA/THEA 1100 3.00. Note: Attendance at Prime Time is required for Theatre majors.

Provides a foundational encounter with diverse forms of theatre from different epochs, proceeding into a survey of theatre and drama from classical Athens to Elizabethan London and 17th century Paris, integrating analytical reading with explorations of performance possibilities. Required of all first-year theatre majors. Open only to theatre majors and minors. Corequisites: FA/THEA 1010 3.0 and FA/THEA 1100 3.0 Note: Attendance at Prime Time is required for Theatre majors.

**INSTRUCTOR(S)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guevara, Alberto J.</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / Y</td>
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<td>Kazubowski-Houston, Magdalen</td>
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**SPECIAL FEATURES**

YORK UNIVERSITY
ARTS, MEDIA, PERFORMANCE & DESIGN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

THEA 1200 6.0 COURSE OUTLINE FW 2018-2019

Course: THEA 1200.6, INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

- **COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

- This course is designed to introduce Theatre students to the key concepts and debates animating Theatre Studies today. Beginning with the overarching question "What is theatre and why/how do we study it?" students will explore a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to) audience, space, time, bodies,
community, spectacle, history, and politics. Taught by a group of Theatre Studies faculty, the course will also introduce students to a range of theoretical and methodological approaches for studying theatre and performance, e.g. performance ethnography, theatre historiography, community activism, practice-based research, educational outreach. Students will have opportunities to work individually as well as collaboratively on written and performance projects. They will also become familiar with Toronto's lively theatre and performance ecology through visits to a wide range of performances over the course of the year.

INSTRUCTOR/FORMAT/TERM/CONTACT INFO

- Term: Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Course Instructor/Contact Info:

Fall Term:
Dr. Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston
416-736-2100 ext. 22257
Room 312 CFT
mkazubow@yorku.ca

Course Consultation Hours: By appointment.

Format: Lectures and Tutorials
This course will consist of two-hour lectures supplemented with in-class discussions and one-hour breakaway tutorials. In order to successfully complete the Theatre Project, students are expected to dedicate additional time to rehearsals outside of lectures. In tutorials, students will have an opportunity to discuss the material covered in lectures in preparation for an in-class test, a critical review of a Theatre @ York production, a performance ethnography project, and a theatre project.

1. SPECIAL FEATURES

Pre-requisite / Co-requisite:
Not open to Theatre non-majors.

Experiential Education Component: The course involves the development and presentation of a short ethnographic performance and short scene from a play studied in class.

2. TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

• Art as social production
• Comedy and tragedy
• Realism
• Feminism
• Epic Theatre
• Theatre of the Absurd
• Performance ethnography

Required Textbooks:
• Oedipus
• Ibsen, Henrik. A Doll’s House
• Beckett, Samuel. Waiting for Godot
• Brecht, Bertolt. *Mother Courage and Her Children*
• Kazubowski-Houston, *Staging Strife*
• Course Kit (indicated as CK in schedule) – available for purchase in class, or at Northview Print & Copy, 2700 Steeles Ave West, Unit 1; Tel 905-738-5353

Clips from Films/Theatre Performances shown in class:

• *Oedipus Rex* (Guthrie 2002)
• *Oedipus Rex* (Pasolini 2003)
• *Dollhouse* (Mabou Mines, Breuer 2008)
• *A Doll’s House* (Losey 1986)
• *A Doll’s House* (Garland 2003)
• *Waiting for Godot* (Schneider 1997)
• *Theatre of War* (Walter 2008)
• *Hope* (Kazubowski-Houston 2003)

**Weekly Schedule of Topics, Fall Semester 2018**

**Week 1 – September 6**
• Introduction

**Week 2 – September 13**
• Theatre as Social Production


**Week 3 – September 20**
• Genre


*Screening:* *Oedipus Rex*

*CK:* Aristotle, *Poetics: Comedy and Epic Tragedy*

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**Theatre Project Proposals Due**

**Week 4 – September 27**
• Style


*Screening:* *Dollhouse, A Doll’s House*

**Week 5 – October 4**
• Politics

Screening:  *Theatre of War*

**October 11 – Reading Week – No Class**  Week 6 – October 18

- **Time**

**Readings:**  Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

**Screening:**  *Waiting for Godot*  Week 7 – October 25

- **Performance Ethnography**

**Readings:**  Kazubowski-Houston, *Staging Strife* (1-67).

**Screening:**  *Hope*

**Week 8 – November 1**

- **Workshop: Performance Ethnography Project: Disrupting Futures**

**Readings:**  Kazubowski-Houston, *Staging Strife* (68-147).

**Week 9 – November 8**

- **Workshop: Performance Ethnography Project: Disrupting Futures**


**Performance Ethnography Project Presentation Due in Tutorials**

**Week 10 – November 15**

- **In-Class Test**

**Week 11 – November 22**

- **Theatre Project Presentations (ACE 207)**

**Week 12 – November 29**

- **Theatre Project Presentations (ACE 207)**

**Written Theatre Project Report Due in Class**

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**Written Review of Theatre @ York Performance Due December 10: Submit Via Moodle to Your Tutorial Leader**

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### 3. **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will learn:

- key concepts within/approaches to theatre and performance studies;
- a variety of dramatic and performance texts/forms;
- a range of theoretical and methodological models for analyzing dramatic and performance texts;
- Toronto's theatre and performance ecology;
- a critical vocabulary for writing and talking about theatre and performance;
ways of engaging with communities at York and throughout the GTA. Students will meet these outcomes by the reading of plays and theoretical texts, discussions, viewings of live and recorded performances, practical work, and the development and presentation of a short performance ethnography piece and a scene from a play studied in class.

4. **GRADED ASSESSEMENT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance/participation:</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>1st term:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Performance Ethnography Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov 1 &amp; Nov 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Theatre Project and Written Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov 22 &amp; 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) In-Class Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Critical Review of Theatre @ York Performance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
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**Attendance/Participation**

Attendance Policy: Students are reminded that Department of Theatre rules require attendance at all classes. Only 1 unexcused absence and lateness are permitted (i.e. not accompanied by official documentation explaining that the absence was unavoidable); any further absences and lateness will result in a 5% reduction per absence from participation grade, unless excused by a doctor's note, or by special permission from the instructor (permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances). Students are also expected to actively participate in class by engaging with the course readings and taking part in all class activities.

**I will not provide students with copies of my lecture notes.** Only PowerPoint lecture presentations (which are not lecture notes!) will be posted on Moodle. Students are required to come to lectures and tutorials having completed all readings assigned for a given week.

**Failure to attend classes will result in either academic penalty or a request that the student withdraw from the course.**

**Assignment Details**

In the first term, the students will complete and submit:

1) **Performance ethnography project** During two lectures of the term (November 1 and November 8), students will participate in two workshops where they will conduct research for, and conceptualize, an ethnographic performance. The aim of the workshops is to conceptually develop an ethnographic theatre performance entitled “Disrupting Futures” in response to the following question: *How might we disrupt the future in ways that create a more just and sustainable world?* During the time allocated for the lecture on November 1, students will convene in groups and—guided by their tutorial leaders—will venture out of the classroom to collect, photograph, film, draw, and record found objects, places, images and sounds (not people!) on York’s campus. Subsequently, in tutorials, students will present and discuss their found objects (the process behind, and reasons for, selecting them, and how these objects might help us in disrupting the future). During the time allocated for the lecture on November 8, the students will use their found objects as a
springboard for brainstorming ideas about how they might develop their ethnographic performance. Students will formally present their ideas in tutorials. Detailed instructions for the workshops and tutorials will be provided in class and will also be posted on Moodle.

2) **Written critical analysis of a Theatre @ York Play** Students must attend a performance of *rochdale* (November 17-24, Joe Green Studio Theatre) and write a critical review of the performance. The performance is free of charge for all THEA 1200 students. The critical review of the performance should be 5 pages in length and double-spaced. This assignment should be written in essay format. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided in class and will also be posted on Moodle. **Written critical review due December 10.**

3) **Theatre Project and Written Report** will involve the participation (e.g. as actors, directors, designers, dramaturgs, or backstage support) in the development and presentation of a short scene (max. three minutes) from any play studied in the fall term. Students will work collaboratively in small groups (6-7 collaborators) and present their scenes in class (November 22 & 29, ACE 207, space booked from 11:00-2:00pm). Each student will also individually submit a short **Written Report (5 pages)** discussing his/her project in relation to the larger themes studied in class. **Group-written reports will not be accepted.** Guidelines for this assignment will be provided in class and will also be posted on Moodle. Students will be marked individually for the quality of their participation in the scene development, and for their report.

4) **In-Class Test (November 15)** This short question-answer test will involve an overview of some of the themes and arguments explored in the course readings. **The test will be written in lecture.**

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. You must submit all written assignments in class. **I will not accept submissions via e-mail or Moodle. The exception to this rule is your final Theatre @ York Performance Review, which you will submit to your tutorial leader via Moodle on December 10.**

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized 3% per day (including weekends), unless you have arranged for an extension. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted unless special permission has been granted. If you anticipate having difficulty completing an assignment on time, please contact your TAs for an extension (although don’t expect to receive one if you e-mail them the night before an assignment is due). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

**Missed Tests:** no make-up tests are provided in this course. If you miss a test, then the value of the remaining assignments will be proportionately redistributed: this is only if you miss the test due to a serious medical condition supported by a doctor’s note (colds will not be considered) or immediate family bereavement (proof required).

**Classroom Etiquette:** The use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, and other electronic devices in both lectures and tutorials is strictly prohibited. If I find that you are using these devices in class, you will be asked to put them away or leave the classroom.

5. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

One of the central educational goals of the Theatre Department is to produce socially conscious artists — artists who are aware 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 bring about
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.

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Bibliography


IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
Reminder: Students must maintain a 5.00 (C+) grade point average in their major (i.e. all Theatre courses) to remain in good academic standing in the department. Check the grade point average calculator at the following link if you have any questions: http://ampd.yorku.ca/current-students/academic-resources/gpa-calculator/

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. http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf
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.

** 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. AMPD has establish complementary procedures for the investigation and resolution of alleged violations of the Senate Policy involving students in AMPD degree program courses at the undergraduate level.

THE ACADEMIC HONESTY PROCESS
An Overview
1. Investigation
2. The person discovering the suspected violation will notify the course director. The course director should not meet with the student or discuss the case at this point.
3. The course director will notify his or her department Chair, providing all documentary evidence.
4. The Chair will consult with the Manager, Faculty Governance & Policy. It will then be determined whether there has been an infraction, and if so, whether it is minor or more serious. In either case, if there has
been an infraction, an exploratory meeting will be held (Part B, below). A case is minor where the infraction is small in extent, can reasonably be construed as an error on the student’s part, and where there appears to be no intent to deceive.

5. If, on consultation, it is determined that an infraction has taken place, the Manager will place a “flag” in the student's file, block enrolment activity in the course, and investigate whether there is a prior history. If it is a repeat offence, then the matter must proceed directly to a formal hearing (Part C, below).

6. Exploratory Meeting

If Minor:
1. The department Chair will conduct an exploratory meeting, attended by the course director and the student. If there is more than one student involved, each should be met with separately. Each may bring a representative.
2. If the student admits to a breach of academic honesty, a suitable penalty — not exceeding failure in the course — will be agreed upon.
3. In all cases, outcomes are reported to the Manager, Faculty Governance & Policy. Where a penalty is imposed, a joint agreement is signed by both parties, and approved by the Associate Dean Academic.

If Serious:
1. The Manager, Faculty Governance & Policy will chair an exploratory meeting, attended by the course director and student and their representatives.
2. If the student admits to a breach of academic honesty, a suitable penalty — not exceeding failure in the course — will be agreed upon. The Associate Dean, Academic may be consulted on a penalty, if necessary.
3. A joint agreement is signed by both parties, and approved by the Associate Dean, Academic.

1. Formal Hearing

A formal hearing by AAPPC will be held in cases where:
1. a) It is not the student’s first offence.
2. b) The student neglects to attend the exploratory meeting and it is found that there are grounds to proceed with a charge of a breach of academic honesty.
3. c) The student admits to a breach of academic honesty, but no penalty can be agreed upon.
4. d) The student does not admit to a breach of academic honesty.

For further information on the penalties for academic misconduct, please see AMPD’s Policy on Academic Honesty.

As approved by AMPD Faculty Council, March 21, 2018

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES

Personal Counselling Services (PCS) aims to help York students realize, develop and fulfill their personal potential in order to maximally benefit from their university experience and manage the challenges of university life. Students come to PCS because of a wide range of concerns including, but not limited to: depression, anxiety, abuse, stress, self-esteem, relationship issues, eating and body image as well as issues related to sexuality.

PCS provides:

• Short-term individual, couple, and group counselling services to York University students
• Personal development workshop and workshop series
• Crisis intervention for York students
• Consultation to the York Community regarding students in distress/crisis and issues related to mental health in general
• Critical incident response debriefings and consultations
• Clinical training for graduate students in Psychology, Social Work, and Psychotherapy

Learn more about other York University resources related to mental health and wellness at York.
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The Centre for Sexual Violence, Response, Support & Education coordinates supports and resources for all members of the community that have experienced sexual violence, receives disclosures and complaints, facilitates safety planning, and assists survivors through the complaint process.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence and is in need of support, the Sexual Violence Response Office (SVRO) can help. Please call 416-736-5211 or find them online at yorku.ca/svro.

You shouldn’t ever feel guilty or be made to feel guilty about reporting a problem.

COURSE-RELATED 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 9, 2018
- Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 8, 2018
- Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 8, 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