

## ***Fall/Winter 2017-2018***

**AP/EN 4371 3.0A(F)**

### ***Contemporary American Drama***

**Course Director:**

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**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30pm

**Description:**

Towards the end of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, a dark and provocative musical about America, the characters step forward and sing "There's another national anthem / For those who never win... / We're the other national anthem / The ones that can't get in / To the ball park. / Spread the word." This seminar attempts to spread the word by focusing on a range of socially relevant and theatrically innovative plays written and performed in the U.S. since 2000. The course aims at acquainting students specifically with "the other national anthem": the deep divisions of race, class, gender, sexuality, religion and politics warring within contemporary American society. The plays chosen for study are often raw, sometimes funny and sometimes tragic, always immediate. Through this immediacy, the course further aims at stimulating critical responses with the challenge of 21st-century plays which have as yet received relatively little scholarly attention, and at placing those works within a larger theatrical context and tradition.

**Category:**

C

**Area:**

N/A

**Period:**

N/A

**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

Theatre review (15%); scene analysis (15%); 10-page essay (40%); test (15%); class participation (15%)

**Reading List:**

#### **Texts (Tentative):**

Quiara Alegria Hudes, *Water by the Spoonful* (Dramatists Play Service [hereafter DPS]); Ayad Akhtar, *Disgraced* (DPS); Lynn Nottage, *Intimate Apparel* (DPS); Annie Baker, *John* (Samuel French); Richard Greenberg, *Take Me Out* (DPS); Bruce Norris, *Clybourne Park* (DPS); David Lindsay-Abaire, *Good People* (DPS); Stephen Karam, *The Humans* (DPS); Amy Herzog, *Belleville* (Samuel French); Sarah Ruhl, *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* (Samuel French)

**Open To:**

Yr 4 Honours