

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 4140 3.0B	Contemporary Drama
Course Director:	Dr Marcia Blumberg e-mail: blumberg@yorku.ca Office Hours: Wed and Thurs 12.30-1.30pm and by appointment on phone at 416-445-1568
Time:	Thursday 2.30 – 5.30pm
Delivery Format:	REMOTE – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times. For more information, see the Description and/or Requirements below.
Description:	Provoking Drama: Contemporary concerns in the international political arena Provocative, confrontational, sensational, scandalous— these adjectives describe theatrical art that shocks and confronts the societal status quo while also intensely challenging formal norms. This course engages with playwrights who have in the past 3 decades conceived of drama as politically and aesthetically interventionist in the <i>contemporary</i> theatre of global politics. Specifically, we will investigate the politics/theatre of war and torture in plays from Britain, Canada, Chile, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, South Africa and the USA. The course analyzes cultural and political contexts, specificities of time and place, aspects of race, class, gender and power differentials, in order to interrogate theatrical, formal, thematic, and theoretical issues that speak with urgency to the times in which we live.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Theatre review (4 pages) 15% Comparative research essay (10 pages) =35%. Response papers. 3 out of 11 texts (3 pages each)(total 30%). Class participation 20%
Reading List:	Gregory Burke, <i>Black Watch</i> (Faber); Caryl Churchill, <i>Far Away</i> (CK), <i>Ding Dong The Wicked</i> ; Ariel Dorfman, <i>Death and the Maiden</i> (Penguin USA); Yael Farber, <i>Molara</i> (Oberon); Janus Glowacki, <i>Antigone in NewYork</i> (Samuel French); David Hare, <i>Stuff Happens</i> (Faber); Martin McDonagh, <i>The Pillowman</i> (DPS); Harold Pinter, <i>Mountain Language</i> (DPS), <i>New World Order</i> (CK); Wallace Shawn, <i>Aunt Dan and Lemon</i> (DPS); Jane Taylor, <i>Ubu and the Truth Commission</i> (CK); Judith Thompson, <i>Palace of the</i>

	<i>End</i> (Playwrights Canada Press); The course kit contains a few plays as well as readings.
Open To:	Year 3, 4