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**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**  
**COURSE OUTLINE – DR1020 A3 W 15**  
**PLAY ANALYSIS – 3(3-0-0) UT**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Annie Smith, PhD.      **PHONE:** 780-539-2882  
**OFFICE:** L222      **E-MAIL:** asmith@gprc.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** T/R 1 PM – 2:PM

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** none

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** 1) *Last Chance Leduc* 2) *Post Colonial Plays: an anthology*.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** How does a play go from being words on a page to action on a stage? Students will analyze play scripts and use their imaginations to suggest possible ways to stage the plays, paying attention to dramaturgy, design, directing and acting. Students will also attend live theatre performances to analyse design and directing decisions in action.

Notes: The Department will endeavor to arrange class attendance at the dress rehearsal of two local live theatre performances. Students unable to attend these rehearsals will be responsible for the admission cost of the performances.

Transfer: UA UC\* UL AU AF CUC GMU KUC Other

**Course Content:** The course is structured as a lecture course that will relies strongly on group discussion. It is absolutely essential that students do the assigned readings for each class in preparation for discussion and group work in class. Graded assignments will include:

- 1) a group project and presentation (with a written component)
- 2) a production analysis of a live performance.
- 3) The midterm and final exams will be structured for written short essay answers.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: (3-0-0) 45**

**DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completing this course, students will:

- have learned a variety of play analysis tools
- critically examined a selection of plays in the context in which they were written
- developed capacity in understanding how a script is developed for performance
- critically considered the theatrical elements that are part of live theatre performance
- gained confidence in their personal response to theatrical writing and performance

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

**EVALUATIONS:** Class participation 15%, Midterm Exam 20%, Group Project 25%, Production Analysis 15%, Final Exam 25%.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- It is absolutely essential that students do the assigned readings for each class in preparation for discussion and group work in class
- Students are responsible for their own theatre admission if they cannot attend a free dress rehearsal.
- Missing more than 1 class will require a doctor's letter. Missing class will seriously impact success in the course.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

[https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms\\_documents/Student\\_Misconduct.pdf](https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf)

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

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## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Month	Dates	Assign.Du e	Readings	Focus
1	Jan	6  8			Intro to course, defining Postcolonialism and how it is represented in contemporary theatre performance. Tour Douglas J. Cardinal PAC.
2		13  15		Intro and play text <b><i>Once Upon Four Robbers</i></b>	Discussion of postcolonial features of play, structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...
3		20  22	Group 1	Intro and play text <b><i>Once Upon Four Robbers</i></b>	Group 1 Presentation on <i>Once Upon Four Robbers</i>  Wrap up of play discussion
4		27  29		Intro and play text <b><i>The Rez Sisters</i></b>	Discussion of postcolonial features of play, structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...
5	Feb	3  5	Group 2	Intro and play text <b><i>The Rez Sisters</i></b>	Group 2 Presentation on <i>The Rez Sisters</i>  Wrap up of play discussion
6		10  12		Intro and play text <b><i>QPH</i></b>	Discussion of postcolonial features of play, structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...  Prep to see <i>Maladjusted</i> .
<b>Reading Week Feb. 16 - 20</b>					

***Maladjusted – Feb. 21, Showcase Centre 7:30 – Theatre for Living***

7		24 26	Group 3	Intro and play text <b><i>QPH</i></b>	Group 3 Presentation on <i>QPH</i>  Wrap up of play discussion. Prep for midterm exam.
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***Dress Rehearsals Last Chance Leduc, March 3 and 4, 7:30 PM***

***Visitor in the Arts – March 4, 11:30 – 12:45 – Katherine Koller***

8	Mar	3 5		<b><i>Last Chance Leduc</i></b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>  Discussion of play structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...
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9		10 12		<b><i>Last Chance Leduc</i></b>	Discussion of play structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...  <b><i>Panel for Last Chance Leduc (actors, director, SM &amp; crew, designers)</i></b>
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10		17 19	<b><i>Last Chance Leduc Play Analysis</i></b>	Intro and play text for <b><i>Nga Pou Wahine</i></b>	Discussion of postcolonial features of play, structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing choices, performance style ...
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11		24 26	Group 4	Intro and play text for <b><i>Nga Pou Wahine</i></b>	Group 4 Presentation on <i>Nga Pou Wahine</i>  Wrap up of play discussion
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12	Apr	31 2		Intro and play text for <b><i>Harvest</i></b>	Discussion of postcolonial features of play, structure, context of play, characters, scenography, directing
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					choices, performance style ...
13		7 9	Group 5	Intro and play text for <i>Harvest</i>	Group 5 Presentation on <i>Harvest</i>  Wrap up of play discussion
14		14			Review and Prep for Final Exam

### **Group Projects/Presentations:**

Each presentation should be approximately 45 minutes with a facilitated Q & A as part of the presentation. There must be a formal written transcript of the presentation, the research, and the group process. The presentation may include live performance and audio/visual components. The class can be moved to another location. Group members share equal responsibility for the assignment and must do equivalent work in research, writing, planning, and presentation. The presentation and the written component are each worth 50% of the mark.

Groups may choose from the following categories to explore with their play:

Historical context/dramaturgy	Theatrical style
Costume Design	Actor's Characterizations
Set Design	Director's Vision
Lighting & Sound Design	Music/Sound
Movement/Choreography	Audience Reception

**IF YOU USE AUDIO/VISUAL RESOURCES AS PART OF YOUR PRESENTATION YOU MUST PRACTICE THEM FIRST IN THE CLASSROOM TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL GOES WELL.**

*The Instructor must be consulted about the group choice for their presentation. Students must allow for sufficient time to read and understand the play as well as to do research, plan, and practice their presentation.*

***Students are encouraged to attend local theatre performances:***

**Local Theatre Productions:** (special rates may apply for specific performances)

<i>Les Miserables</i>	GPLT	Feb 5 – 21	Douglas J. Cardinal PAC
<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	Ovations	Feb 12, 13, 14	Showcase Centre
<b>Maladjusted</b>	Theatre for Living	Feb 21	Showcase Centre
<b>Last Chance Leduc</b>	GPRC Theatre Rising	Mar 5 – 14	Black Box Theatre
<i>On Golden Pond</i>	Ovations	Mar 5 – 21	Showcase Centre
<i>Dry Streak</i>	GPLT	Mar 5 – 21	Second Street Theatre
<i>Cards on the Table</i>	GPLT	April 9 – 25	Second Street Theatre
<i>Grease</i>	Ovations	April 9 – May 9	Showcase Centre