ENGLISH 316/DRAMA 380

Canadian Drama

Winter 1996

9:30 MWF
ES1 350
Office: HH 225
1:30-3:30 MF

Texts


Description

As page 16.57 of the 1995-96 Undergraduate Calendar of the University of Waterloo tells you, this course represents writings by Canadian dramatists of the twentieth century. Page 16.41 refers you to the same description. Our current texts, published in 1993 and 1994 include some of our new theatrical talents, such as Native playwright Tomson Highway (b. 1951) and Nova-Scotia/Ontario Vancouverite Wendy Lill (b. 1950). They also include veteran poet-playwright James Reaney (b. 1926), winner of numerous Dominion Drama Festival Awards and of three Governor General's Awards, as well as winner of the first Governor General's Award for Drama, Sharon Pollock (b. 1936).

Your texts are well supplied with introductory and bibliographic information. These should be of considerable assistance in your preparatory reading as well as in your research for your term essay.

Your texts offer a choice of twenty plays. From these selections have been made to provide you with the largest amount of diversity combined with economy of representation. If you have any questions about the particular plays placed on your course outline, as well as about any other aspect of the course and our face to face meetings, please feel free to raise your hand to ask these. For more detailed discussions of any aspect of our course you are invited to visit me during office hours, 1:30-3:30 MF in HH 225.

Since some of you are students in English Language and Literature programmes while others are students in Drama and Speech Communication, you may differ in some of your interpretations of particular characters or scenes; such differences of perception and cognition will, it is hoped, result in additional learning experiences. I shall, of course, be pleased to assist you in sorting out such differences, if you wish me to do so.
# English 316 / Drama 380

**Canadian Drama**

Winter 1996  

**TEXTS**

Jerry Wasserman, ed. *Modern Canadian Plays* vol. I and II.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic and Text</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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| January 3 | Introduction: reading plays  
* A Theatre in Your Head |                                               |
| 8        | Canada's first people: *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*                               | Essay topics will be distributed; (40% of course grade) |
| 15       | Towards peace, order and good government: *Walsh*                              |                                               |
| 22       | Before confederation.  
*1837: The Farmers' Revolt*                                                   |                                               |
| 29       | Conflicts of local history.  
*The St. Nicholas Hotel*                                                         |                                               |
| February 5 | Our regions: *Jacob's Wake*                                                   |                                               |
| 12       | Voices from Quebec: *Les Belles-Sœurs*                                         | Midterm test  
Feb. 12 (20% of course grade) |
| 19       | **Study Week**                                                                 |                                               |
| 26       | Two cultures: *Balcon Ville*                                                   |                                               |
| March 4  | Professions: *Doc*                                                            |                                               |
| 11       | Professions: *The Occupation of Heather Rose*                                  |                                               |
| 18       | City life now: *Automatic Pilot*                                               | Essay due Mar. 18                             |
| 25       | Native life now: *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*                         |                                               |
| April 1  | Three decades of playwriting for Canadian audiences                            | Final Examination: to be announced (40% of course grade) |


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**University of Waterloo**  
Department of English  
Professor R. Lister