

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2041F (001)

Special Topics in Drama: The Knight of the Burning Pestle

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux

Course Description

In this course, students participating in a major Western University theatre production explore in theory and practice approaches to text in performance. Only students working as an actor, or in such major production roles as stage manager, assistant stage manager, lighting, props or costume maker may enroll. Permission of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies is required to enroll.

Objectives:

Present an early modern comedy

Write a critically engaged essay about the play and its performance history

Present logical and reasoned arguments about the play with a sophisticated use of evidence

Demonstrate familiarity with the historical context of early modern drama

Show knowledge of the reception history of the play from its time to our present moment

Course Materials (required)

Francis Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Methuen)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

First Essay (500-750 words)	10%
Second Essay (2500 words)	30%
Third Essay (750-1000 words)	20%
Performance Evaluation (See below)	40%

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Essay Topics

Essay 1: Scene Analysis (500-750 words) 10%: **Due Oct. 10**

Choose ONE scene from the play, and in a 500-750-word essay analyze the scene in terms of such elements as theme, literary devices, and patterns of imagery, character development, staging techniques, and relationship to the play as a whole. **MLA 8 or 9 format**

Essay 2: Research Essay (2000-2500 words) 30%: Due Nov. 28

Create your own research topic about performance and this play. You might examine such topics as different styles of theatre and acting, designs for sets, costume, and props, music, or another performance element. Write a critically engaged essay of 2500 words. Use MLA format, and engage with at least THREE primary sources (e.g., other plays, films, interviews, memoirs, reviews, programs, musical recordings) and at least THREE secondary sources (e.g., scholarly

Duties of Production Crew

Stage Manager: Attend all auditions, interviews, and rehearsals, as well as each performance. Write blocking notes, props notes, and technical cues into prompt script. Supervise two ASMs (see below). Give the calls to all cast members and needed production staff for rehearsals and run of show. Call the cues during the run of the show. Take charge of dressing rooms, green room, and stage during rehearsals and run. Head up technical crew during rehearsals and run.

Assistant Stage Managers (ASMs—two): Work with Stage Manager on keeping blocking and technical notes, and on calling cast members for rehearsals and run. Head up the running crew for the run of the show. Assist with properties, costumes, costume changes, and other cues.

Costume Designer: In consultation with the director, design and build, rent and/or borrow costumes for the run. Measure all cast members and draw up costume plot. Provide rehearsal skirts for femal u.9 (ope-m)4.9 (e pl)13.5 (o (h7u)11.-5.9 (-2 (al) (4 -0 0 11.04 72 562.2 Tm [(c)-2 (os)-2 (t)-6.n

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Sept.5	Introduction, meet and greet, talk about the play
Sept. 10-12	Table Talk; Script read
Sept.17-19	Table Talk; Block/Work Act 1
Sept.24-26	Block/Work Act 2
Oct. 1-3	Block/Work Act 3
Oct. 8-10	Block/Work Act 4; Essay 1 Due Oct.10
Oct.15-17	Fall Reading Week
Oct. 22-24	Block/Work Act 5
Oct. 29-31	First Stumble Through
Nov. 5-7	Work needed scenes
Nov.12-14	Run whole show.