

Department of English & Writing Studies
Theatre Studies Program

Table Work
Theatre Studies 3208F (001)
Fall 2022

Instructor: David Leyshon
UC 1424

Office Hours: Thursday, 10-12:15, or by
appointment.

dleyshon@uwo.ca

Course Location: UC 2105

Course Day/Time: Thursday 12:30-3:30pm

Delivery Type: Synchronous/In-person

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of any 1000-level or above “E” or combination of two

Course Materials

Required Text: *The Visit – A Tragicomedy*, by Friedrich Dürrenmatt,
Translated by Joel Agee, Grove Press, 2010.
This text is available through the UWO Bookstore.

Methods of Evaluation

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

Preparedness, Participation and Attendance: 10%

Preparation for in-class reading and exploration of the text. Students will have read assigned scenes prior to class to ensure the experience of reading with others goes smoothly; that is to say ready to make the effort to keep the play alive, in the air, awake to each moment in the scene – reading with a sense of curiosity, moving the ideas into the mouths of the characters. Attendance (i), 7 wt

- **Note:** Your group work is the core component of this exercise - assessment is based around your effort and contributions - not your acting skills - your willingness to jump in and play and explore with the text and the imaginative creation of your 'production'.

Public Reading Dec. 8th: 15%

Essay 2, due Dec 8th: 20% (1250-1500 words)

Building off your group performance and critical response, having pondered different interpretations of *The Visit* and how it might be performed, expand on your thoughts here. Dürrenmatt posits that theatre is in part a museum - in the best sense of the word - and in part a field of experimentation. How does *The Visit* continue to resonate within the field of experimentation? Can it shirk the weight of 'museum'? That is to say, can it still impact us today in terms of its 'morality tale'? What would a production today 'say'? Discuss.

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>

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

September 8th - Introduction. Language.

September 15th - First Reading of The Visit

September 22nd - Given Circumstances: **Oral Presentations** - The World of the Play

September 29th - Character. Discuss Essay #1

October 6th - Units/Shifts.

Reading Week

October 20th - Objective and Tactic. **Essay #1 Due**

October 29th - Group Assignments and Discussion

November 3rd – Rehearsal Group #1/Discussion

November 10th – Rehearsal Group #2/Discussion

November 17th – Rehearsal Group #3/Discussion

November 24th – Rehearsal Group #4/Discussion

December 1st - **Group Presentations**

December 8th - **Public Reading. Essay #2 Due**