

NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE SCHEDULE FOR 2023. THIS IS A SAMPLE SYLLABUS, BASED ON 2018 ACTIVITIES, FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

Contemporary British Theater
July 15-August 12, 2023

6 credits:

Contemporary British Drama

undergraduate: ENGL 388.62 or THEA 397.47

graduate: ENGL 780.50 or THC 710.56

Shakespeare

undergraduate: ENGL 352 or ENGL 355.66

graduate: ENGL 715.68

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London mobile: TBA

Description

This four-week, six-credit program will explore the diversity of theatrical offerings in London and vicinity, providing a wide-ranging and historically rich understanding of British theater as it is practiced today in both traditional and experimental venues. This program provides students with multiple opportunities for experiencing world-class theater as we attend 12 performances of works ranging from Shakespeare and other early drama to classic and contemporary plays.

Included in the schedule are guided tours of the Globe and the National theaters and, whenever possible, meetings with actors, directors, producers, scholars, and critics in order to explore the often-hidden mechanics of theatrical production. Also planned are an overnight to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, a walking tour of Shakespeare's London, and a day trip to Hampton Court Palace. We will also gather for at least two group meals, a welcome dinner and a farewell get-together, at local London restaurants. Most classes, performances, trips, talks, and tours will be scheduled Monday through Thursday, allowing time for study and for exploration of London and beyond.

Students will be housed in single rooms in the University of London's International Hall, centrally located in fashionable Bloomsbury, close to tube stations, bus lines, the British Library, the British Museum, and Brunswick Center shopping, with easy access to Soho, Covent Garden, and the West End. IH stays include 24-hour security, wireless internet access, laundry facilities, kitchens, and common spaces. Classes will be held in a meeting room at IH as well.

Outcomes

Students will experience a range of performances in London and environs.

Students will become aware of a variety of venues and styles.

Students will gain familiarity with historical dramatic texts.
 Students will master reading and writing theater reviews.
 Students will interpret, analyze, and research dramatic texts and performances.

Requirements

Punctual, positive, and well-prepared participation is essential. Active engagement is expected of all, so repeated absence, lateness, or unpreparedness *will* lower your grade.

Come to class with relevant texts in hand, prepared to participate in a lively, informed, constructive, and intelligent manner. Supplementary materials, such as play reviews and video clips, will be posted on Blackboard, so it is important to check the site regularly. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to and can receive emails through Blackboard. (15%)

Informal writing assignments include:

- regular posts on the Blackboard Discussion Board Forum after *every* performance
- a post responding to an object associated with Shakespeare, his life or times or something related to a production of his plays; these will be encountered at the assigned museums, the Birthplace, and elsewhere
- a post responding to one of the tours

Each post should be 1-3 paragraphs in length and posted before the next class. Approximately half of your responses should begin an original thread and half should respond to others' posts. Because the point is to keep thinking about the plays and the issues as you go along, you may *not* wait until the very end of the program to post all at once. Done regularly, these posts will help you tremendously in the formal writing assignments. They'll keep conversations going outside of class. (15%)

Formal writing assignments include:

- four short reviews (3-4 pages each) to be completed during the London portion of the program and (with one possible exception) handed in at the start of the first class meeting of each week, beginning with Week Two: hard copy, one per week. Each will focus on one play of the previous week; at least one of the four must be on a Shakespeare play. See due dates on syllabus. (10% each)
- a research essay, in three parts: a) presentation to the class of some primary research materials (10 minutes); b) tentative outline of essay, including five annotated sources; 3) 10-12 page research essay (12-15 pages for graduate students). See due dates on schedule. (30%)

N.B. Proper MLA format is required for texts and citations. No late work will be accepted.

Required texts

Below are the major required texts. You must read or view the texts before each class discussion in hard copy (with one exception, noted below). Be sure to see the schedule

and the Blackboard site for other required materials (e.g., reviews, video clips, etc.), which will be posted throughout the program.

With one (starred) exception, you can buy all of the plays in London (if you don't bring them with you from home). The best place to find books (and lots of other great stuff) is 1) Foyle's Bookstore (various locations) <http://www.foyles.co.uk/>, which has a "now on stage" section, 2) the theater at which the production is occurring, and 3) the National Theatre Book Shop.

Many different scholarly editions of Shakespeare's plays are available at Foyle's, the Globe, the National, the RSC, etc. Scholarly editions are published by university or specialist presses, e.g., Oxford, Routledge, Palgrave, Norton, Arden, Folger, etc.; ask if you have any questions about which are appropriate for our class.

Note that you must read the first play *for our first class*. If you don't bring this play with you from home, you can order it in advance and pick it up at Foyle's in person, but do so well in advance so you'll have your copy in time.

Why not e-texts? While they're sometimes cheaper and more portable, often there are important downsides as well, including lack of pagination and editorial apparatus such as introductions, glossaries, maps, chronologies, etc., all of which make the reading process fuller and more accessible. And importantly, you'll be bringing your texts with you to the performances when reading is possible only with print.

N.B.: In no case may you bring required materials to class or a theater solely on your phone.

REMEMBER: THIS IS A SAMPLE LIST ONLY. READINGS FOR 2023 WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

Week one:

Readings from Marcia L. Ferguson, *A Short Guide to Writing about Theatre* (Longman, 2008) (on Blackboard)
 Joe Murphy and Joe Robinson, *The Jungle* (Faber & Faber, 2017)
 William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* and *Romeo and Juliet* (any scholarly edition)
 John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (Norton, 2015)

Week two:

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (any scholarly edition)
 August Strindberg, *Miss Julie* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
optional: Polly Stenham, *Julie* (Faber & Faber, 2018)
 Nina Raines, *Consent* (Nick Hern Books, 2017)

Week three:

Shakespeare, *Othello* (any scholarly edition)
 Mike Poulton, *Imperium* (Nick Hern Books, 2017)

optional: Robert Harris, Cicero trilogy (Cornerstone, 2009)

Week four:

Tom MacRae and Dan Gillespie Sells, *Everybody's Talking about Jamie* (Samuel French, 2017)

*Joeri Smet, Angelo Tijssens, Karolien de Bleser, and Alexander Devriendt, *Lies*

About theater in London

Performances of plays will be at the theaters listed on the schedule (along with the closest tube stations). For specific directions, check Transport for London: <https://tfl.gov.uk/>.

Most performances begin at 7:30 pm, but some plays, plus tours, workshops, etc., start at other times. All exceptions are noted in **bold**.

Tickets to each performance or event will be distributed either in class or 15-20 minutes before curtain time at the theater (usually outside the main entrance). Make sure you allow sufficient travel time to reach the venue, find me, get your ticket, get seated, etc.

At the theater: dress and decorum for attending the theater (“theatre”) in London tend to be a bit more formal and less exuberant. So dress “up” slightly and clap politely, even enthusiastically, but don’t automatically scream or leap to your feet for a standing ovation.

In addition to the text, you’ll need a small notebook to take notes during intermissions, etc.

N.B. For important information about your stay in London, see the last section of this syllabus.

Schedule

In addition to the performances, other activities, such as class meetings and tours, are listed below. Some changes may occur as we go along, so be sure to check Blackboard regularly. As plays open, other required materials, such as reviews and video clips, will be added to the schedule and posted on Blackboard.

The usual time for class meetings (at International Hall [IH], room TBA) is 9 am; the usual time for performances is 7:30 pm. Be aware of exceptions, as well as times for other events; these are noted in **bold**.

N.B. Always carry pen and paper (preferably in your small notebook) to all events, including group meals, performances, tours, etc., for taking notes to use in our discussions and your postings, reviews, presentations, and essays.

REMEMBER: THIS IS A SAMPLE SCHEDULE ONLY. DATES ARE NOT FOR 2023. ACTUAL 2023 PERFORMANCES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

WEEK ONE (SAMPLE)

| | | | |
|----|------|------|---|
| Sa | 7/21 | | Arrive International Hall |
| | | 6 pm | Welcome Dinner: Kennedy's (fish and chips) 169 Whitecross Street Tube: walk from PURE <i>N.B.:</i> Bring to dinner this schedule, your small notebook and pen. |
| Su | 7/22 | | on your own Museum Day Find/post on an object from Shakespeare/Tudor exhibits at <i>either</i> the Victoria and Albert Museum (<i>optional:</i> check website for Medieval and Renaissance Tour or Britain 1500-1900 Tour) https://www.vam.ac.uk/shop/whatson/ <i>or</i> the Museum of London "War, Plague, and Fire" galleries http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/permanent-galleries/war-plague-fire |
| M | 7/23 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss museum visit • Prepare for <i>The Jungle</i> (<u>always</u> bring texts to class) Read: Ferguson, pp. 29-46 7:30 pm Performance: <i>The Jungle</i> Playhouse Theatre Tube: Embankment |
| Tu | 7/24 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>The Jungle</i> Reviews: Hemming and Taylor (posted) • Prepare for <i>As You Like It</i> |
| W | 7/25 | 9 am | Tour of Globe Theatre, Bankside, Exhibit, and Elizabethan dress demonstration meet outside Exhibition Hall Shakespeare's Globe 7:30 pm Performance: <i>As You Like It</i> Shakespeare's Globe Tube: Blackfriars, Mansion House, others |
| Th | 7/26 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>As You Like It</i> Reviews: Cavendish and Waugh (posted) Read: Ferguson, Ch. 3 (skip section on Production Response) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Stratford visit, including <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> |
| F | 7/27 | | Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon |

N.B.: Only bring what you can carry with you in a small backpack or shoulder bag. Breakfast is included at the hostel on Saturday morning. Linens are provided but no towels or toiletries (towels may be rented for a small fee).

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|----|------|--------------------|---|
| | | 10:10 am | Train to Stratford-upon-Avon (change at Leamington Spa) Tube: Marylebone Station |
| | | 12:30 pm | Shakespeare's Birthplace Henley Street |
| | | 2 pm | Check into YHA Stratford (all together) Alveston, Warwickshire |
| | | on your own | Explore Stratford, including Holy Trinity Church and New Place, 22 Chapel Street |
| | | 7:30 pm | Performance: <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> Swan Theatre |
| | | Overnight | YHA Stratford-upon-Avon |
| Sa | 7/28 | 8-9:30 am | Breakfast and check out at YHA |
| | | 9:30 am | Class (one hour, at YHA) |
| | | on your own | Explore Stratford |
| | | 1:15 pm | Performance: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> RSC Theatre |
| | | 4:45 pm | Train to London (change at Leamington Spa) Stratford-upon-Avon Station |

WEEK TWO (SAMPLE)

| | | | |
|----|------|-----------------------|---|
| Tu | 7/31 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Stratford visit, including <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Reviews: Billington and Cavendish (for both plays) (posted) • Prepare for <i>Hamlet</i> |
| | | DUE: Review #1 | |
| | | 7:30 pm | Performance: <i>Hamlet</i> Shakespeare's Globe |
| W | 8/1 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>Hamlet</i> Reviews: Cavendish and Waugh (posted) • Prepare for: <i>Julie</i> |
| | | 4 pm | Tour National Theatre |
| | | 7:30 | Performance: <i>Julie</i> National Theatre (Lyttleton) Tube: Waterloo, Southwark, others |
| Th | 8/2 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>Julie</i> Reviews: Campbell and Cavendish (posted) • Prepare for: <i>Consent</i> |

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|----|------|----------|---|
| | | 7:30 pm | Performance: <i>Consent</i> Harold Pinter Theatre Tube: Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, others |
| | | | WEEK THREE (SAMPLE) |
| Tu | 8/7 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Consent</i> Reviews: Dalton and Trueman (posted) • Prepare for <i>Othello</i> DUE: Review #2 |
| | | 6 pm | <i>Optional</i> : introductory talk Knowles Center (Globe) |
| | | 7:30 pm | Performance: <i>Othello</i> Shakespeare's Globe |
| W | 8/8 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Othello</i> Reviews: Cavendish and Waugh (posted) • Prepare for <i>Imperium</i> |
| | | 1:30 pm | Performance: <i>Imperium I: Conspirator</i> |
| | | 7 pm | Performance: <i>Imperium II: Dictator</i> Gielgud Theatre Tube: Piccadilly Circus, Charing Cross, others |
| Th | 8/9 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>Imperium</i> Reviews: Billington and Hitchings (posted) • Prepare for Hampton Court Palace visit https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/#gs.H9vbnZ4 |
| | | | Individual meetings about research project |
| F | 8/10 | | Visit to Hampton Court Palace |
| | | 10:06 am | Train to Hampton Court Tube: Waterloo |
| | | 11 am | Tour of house and gardens |
| | | 4:24 pm | Train to London Waterloo Hampton Court Station |
| | | | WEEK FOUR (SAMPLE) |
| M | 8/13 | 6 pm | <i>Optional</i> : "Staging Race and Diversity in the Shakespearean Theatre Wanamaker Playhouse (Globe) |
| Tu | 8/14 | 9 am | Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: Hampton Court Palace visit • Prepare for: <i>Everybody's Talking about Jamie</i> |
| | | 7:30 pm | Performance: <i>Everybody's Talking about Jamie</i> Apollo Theatre |

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|----|------|----------------|--|
| | | | Tube: Piccadilly Circus |
| Th | 8/16 | 9 am | Class |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>Everybody's Talking about Jamie</i> Reviews: Clapp and Taylor (posted) • Research paper presentations |
| | | 6 pm | Performance: <i>Lies (bring cash – you'll see why and you'll get it all back)</i> |
| | | | Almeida Theatre |
| | | | Tube: Angel |
| F | 8/17 | 9 am | Class |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: <i>Lies</i> Reviews: Lawson and Wilks (posted) |
| | | | DUE: Review #4 (but see below) |
| | | 6 pm | Farewell dinner: Cote Brasserie (French) |
| | | | 57 Whitecross Street |
| | | | Tube: Barbican |
| Sa | 8/18 | | Depart PURE |
| | | | POST-LONDON |
| Su | 8/19 | by 5 pm | Due: Review #4 (via email, if not submitted on 8/17) |
| | | | Due: Final posts (only for Week Four) |
| M | 9/10 | by 5 pm | Due: Essay (email <u>and</u> hard copy), 1306 HW |

London Information

Your residence will be University of London's International Hall. Address: Lansdowne Terrace, London, WC1N 1AS. For information about this residence, see: <https://www.london.ac.uk/halls/international-hall#about-this-hall>. Closest Tube stations: Russell Square, Euston, Kings Cross.

International Hall is located in Bloomsbury, one of the storied neighborhoods of London, dating from before the 13th century. Wikipedia has an informative page on the area: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloomsbury> This short video will also give you a sense of the area: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T04KtJUd_TM

Class meetings will be held at IH, starting promptly at 9 and generally ending at 12, including a short break. Be sure to bring your small notebook and pen (not just an electronic device) to every class session.

Free internet access is available at IH. Be aware that, as at home and everywhere else, public wifi is not always secure; you may want to bring your own ethernet cable for use in the residence. See the IH website for further information.

Electronic devices, like computers and phones, only need a UK plug adapter, but small appliances like hair dryers also require a current converter (110 US/230 UK). Even so, any US appliances with a heating element may be in danger of *burning out* as ordinary

converters are not always be sufficiently powerful. Travel appliances usually have different current settings.

London's a great walking city, but for other modes of getting around London check the official government site, Transport for London: <https://tfl.gov.uk/>. Most on-line sites have maps and links for directions.

London public transportation is modern and efficient, but the train system (the "Tube" or "Underground") does *not* ordinarily run 24 hours as it does in New York. Buses tend to be cheaper than the Tube and usually run after midnight, while the Tube ends at midnight during the week and 12:30 am on Fridays and Saturdays. (Extended tube hours may be in place on some lines during the summer.) You should always check your return times before you go out at night or you might be stuck with a hefty taxi fare. (Taxis are much more expensive in London than in New York.) Double-decker buses come often and move quickly.

Oyster Cards are the equivalent of New York Metrocards and can be used on both the underground and buses. You can buy either a Zones 1-2 Unlimited Ride card (not usually needed) or a pay-as-you-go card to which you add money ("top up") via a linked credit card. Going "contactless" on your phone is also an option. Helpfully, London Transport customer service offices are in both Gatwick and Heathrow airports so you can purchase Oyster Cards and get information upon arrival before taking the Tube right into the city (for an extra fee). Always keep your card or ticket handy, as you'll need to present or swipe it when entering *and* departing stations. About Oyster cards: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster/using-your-oyster-card>.

You *cannot* simply use your US cell phone ("mobiles" in the UK) outside the country without incurring massive roaming/data charges. Contact your carrier *before* leaving the US to be sure you'll have adequate access at moderate cost. One option is to purchase a dedicated mobile, which can be done at any number of stores in London. (Some stores, but not all, require that you have a UK or European bank account and purchase a plan for several months; do your research before leaving home.) Another option is to change your US SIM card for one meant for the UK (changing SIM cards is easier on some phones than others). In any case, be sure you understand the regulations of your carrier *before* leaving home.

Staying in contact is vitally important when travelling abroad. We'll exchange cell phone numbers and email addresses. You should keep a copy of the first page of your passport separate from your passport itself, as well as copies of your credit cards and other important information, such as medication prescriptions. So plan ahead: what would you need to know if anything got lost or stolen? This is not likely, but you want to be prepared.

If you may need medication, get extra *before* leaving home. The British health care system is so different from ours that it may be difficult, if not impossible, to get what you need.

Safety should always be a consideration, though in general London is safer than New York. IH has 24-hour security and is in a well-travelled part of London. Still, be as sensible as you are in New York (e.g., do not carry your passport on a daily basis, do not flash cash, try to walk in company at night, be aware of your surroundings, etc.).

Currency: The UK uses British Pounds Sterling, for which you'll need to exchange US dollars. I suggest buying some (not many) pounds at the airport in a Bureau de Change when you arrive; look for a "fee-free" exchange. In the UK, post offices, banks, and agencies like American Express usually have better exchange rates than street kiosks, private exchanges, or train stations. (Exchange rates vary, so it's worth comparing. At this writing \$1 = £.84, which means every time you spend a pound you're "really" spending \$1.20.) Alternatively, you can withdraw cash in local currency from ATM machines, but be aware of extra charges you may incur from your home bank.

Credit cards: You can use most credit/debit cards, but many add a hefty "foreign exchange" surcharge to the exchange rate (some American Express and Capital One cards do not). Not all US credit cards work abroad, as they need embedded chips or to be "contactless." As always, contact your credit card issuer and inquire *before* you travel. In addition, it's a good rule to let them know when and where you'll be traveling, as credit card companies have been known to put surprise security freezes on accounts due to unusual spending.

London summer weather can be quite changeable. Often, it will feel more like a New York spring than summer, and it's not uncommon to have a month of truly beautiful days with somewhat coolish evenings (carrying a light sweater is always a good idea, especially for inside theaters). However, in the past few years European countries have had some severe heat waves, for which they are not prepared, having no tradition of air-conditioning (none in student residences). On the other hand, rain is always a possibility anywhere in the UK, so it's a good idea to have a small, light travel umbrella.

A final note: While you're encouraged to explore London and even travel further – in fact, the schedule is meant to help you do just that – throughout your trip you are representing our class and Hunter College (and, for that matter, New York City and the US). You're expected to act accordingly.

Important Information

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA

In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 or VRS (646) 755-3129.

Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/1a/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

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