**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**

**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

**ÉTUDES FRANÇAISES**

**WINTER 2023 (0,5 credit)**

\*\**Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The school reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.\*\**

**FREN\*4020: Contemporary Francophone Theatre** **Instructor: Prof. S. Nutting**

**E-mail:** **snutting@uoguelph.ca**

Please note that I check email once daily, usually around midday. As a rule, I do not respond to email correspondence on weekends.

**Course times:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:20MCKN 315

**Office hour:** TBA

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**DESCRIPTION:**

In this course we will read and discuss French and Québécois plays by twentieth-century dramatists. Our approach to the texts will center on the social, political, and cultural contexts of the plays with a focus on the role of language. We will also examine the role of theatre as it reflects and reframes changes in contemporary society. We will look at theatre as a specific genre of writing with a focus on spectacle and role-playing.

**FORMAT:** In-class lectures and discussions. Preparation and homework will be assigned via the Top Hat Learning platform. There will be no recorded, asynchronous lectures or videos, therefore attendance on both Tuesdays and Thursdays is expected.

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the University website and circulated by email.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Over the course of the semester, you will:

* Examine the ways which dramatic texts engage with the **history of ideas** in Québec, French Canada and France.
* Acquire and apply **critical vocabulary in French by applying it** to: 1- regular exercises and discussions 2- the writing of a performance review.
* Identify and compare the different **theatre aesthetics** that belong to the French tradition. This includes: philosophical theatre, absurdism and comedy, realism, and fragmented storytelling.
* Analyse the ways **theatre dialogue** is constructed and apply key concepts by creating your own theatre dialogue.
* Demonstrate **reading and writing competencies** in French commensurate with those expected in a fourth-year university course.

**PREREQUISITES:**1.00 credit at the 3000-level in French **RESTRICTIONS:** FREN\*3120

**REQUIRED SUBSRIPTION:**

**Top Hat:**

**We will be using Top Hat (**[www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)**), a paid subscription site, to access the digital interactive materials and supplementary readings we will be using in this class. You will receive an invitation to your school email address with instructions on how to access the site. You may also consult Top Hat's Getting Started Guide (**[**https://bit.ly/31TGMlw**](https://bit.ly/31TGMlw)**).**

**If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or...**

**Go to https://app.tophat.com/register/student**

**Click "Search by school" and input the name of our school**

**Search for our course with the following join code: 447053**

**Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**Plays :**

Evelyne de la Chenelière, *Bashir Lazhar*. Montréal : Leméac, 2011.\*

 Jean-Rock Gaudreault, *Une maison face au nord.* Montréal : Dramaturges éditeurs,2008.

Eugène Ionesco, *La cantatrice chauve* [1950]. Paris: Gallimard, coll. « Folio théâtre », 1993.

 Eric Emmanuel Schmitt, *Le visiteur.* Paris : Magnard, 2002.

\* Trigger warning : please note that there is an oblique reference to suicide as well as a direct reference to political violence and family tragedy. The film version, « Monsieur Lazhar », has more explicit, visual references to suicide. Please do not hesitate to contact the professor ahead of the start date if you have concerns about this subject matter.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Various weekly assignments 15%

ThematicEssay 20%

 A critical review of a performance in French 20%

 Creative writing: dialogue

1. Participation 5%
2. Critical reflection 15%

 Final examination 25%

November 21, 2022