

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department 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.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST*3170	Course Title: Special Topics	Date of Offering: F' 19
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: discussion/ lecture/ in class performances
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#### Brief Course Synopsis: Performing Fictional Identities

This course rests on the premise that sexual and gender identities are important, and that they are, simultaneously both fictional and real (a paradox to be explained as the course progresses). Students will study identity politics -- including gay, lesbian, and transgender identities-- in various plays, from the last century to the present century, from Canada and around the world. The course will not only juxtapose queer theory and plays for discussion, but will offer students the chance to play with various identity sexual/gender identities through the incubator of theatrical characters, by acting in scenes for the rest of the class. Plays by Mordaunt Shairp, Nina Arsenault, Tennessee Williams, Lillian Hellman, Jordan Tannahill, and Lanford Wilson will be studied along with theory by Jill Dolan, Judith Butler, Lorraine Hainsberry, Audrey Lorde, Elaine Showalter, Kate Bornstein and Patrick Califia.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Responses (4) 32%  
Mid-term essay 15%  
Final essay 15%  
Participation 20%  
Quizzes on Readings (4) 10%  
Co-operation with others in scene work 8%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Arsenault, Nina, *Silicone Diaries*

Hellman, Lillian. *The Children's Hour*

Tannahill, Jordan. *Rihannaboi95*

Shairp, Mourdaunt. *The Green Bay Tree*

Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Wilson, Lanford. *The Madness of Lady Bright*

Coursepack with readings by: Jill Dolan, Susan Stryker, Judith Butler, Elaine Showalter, Patrick Califia, Michel Foucault, Jeffrey Weeks.

Online reading assignments Lorraine Hansberry, Audrey Lorde, Kate Bornstein.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Other information about the course (optional):