



**Instructor:** S. Kovacs

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**Course Number:** DRE200H5F

**Course Title:** Canadian Theatre History

**Course description:**

*"There is no Canadian Drama. It is merely a branch of the American theatre, and, let it be said, a most profitable one"*

*-J.E. Middleton, 1914*

In this survey course students will contest Middleton's above assertion through engagement with the abundant and evolving performance traditions in Canada since the late nineteenth century (post-Confederation) to the present. Through our encounters with plays, events, cultural institutions, and documents of cultural criticism we will evaluate trends and relationships to consider dramaturgical strategies and performance customs that persist across time. Some themes studied through reference to past and current cutting edge performances will be: collective creation, devising, the reinvention of a colonial tradition, adaptation, biography, documentary theatre, aboriginal theatre, and the performance of a nation. Students will be required to analyze and interpret Canadian plays, web research resources (such as Theatre Museum Canada), critical readings, scholarly articles, and primary and secondary materials. We will address the political, economic, and cultural factors that influence the

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production of modern Canadian theatre. Students will also be required to perform their own independent primary and secondary research relating to the course materials and to contribute content through various methods of submission: written responsive web posting, essay writing, performance, and group presentation. In DRE200, students will gain familiarity with important events in Canadian theatre history, read and critically engage with formative texts from the Canadian theatre canon, relate these traditions to current performance practice, develop and implement research strategies, and cultivate an understanding of the historical contexts that immediately shape our own training and practice methodologies today.

**Required Reading:**

A course pack, online materials (links will be provided on course website), video materials screened in-class or made available for outside viewing.

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:**

TBA: Materials (plays and critical readings) will be available from a custom course pack.

**Method of Instruction:**

Lecture, group discussion, practical workshops, and presentation.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Timeline Posting & Discussion	15%
"Imagining Canada" Reconstruction Assignment	25%
Theatre Company Research Presentation	20%
Class Participation and Attendance	10%
Final Exam	30%