



Syllabus

Course Title: CURTAIN CALL: BRITISH DRAMA IN ACTION

Program and Date: CCSA LONDON WINTER December 26, 2025—January 7, 2026

Academic Department: Languages and Literature

Instructor Name: Dr. Mickey Wadia

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Note: *[students: please use the words “Curtain Call CCSA London Winter” as your subject line in email inquiries. If you have serious interest in the class, I will connect you with my cell phone.. You’re going to need it anyway for when we are in London]*

Get to Know Your Professor

Call me Doc or Dr W. or Dr Wadia—I am happy to serve as your London travel “expert” and guide! I have been associated with CCSA and the London Winter program for over 25 years. My Ph. D. is from The University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Shakespeare studies. I teach upper-division literature classes as well as Technical Writing at Austin Peay State University. I have very good teaching evaluations, and am honored to have been the recipient of the two major teaching awards at my university: *The Socrates Award* for junior untenured faculty (1996) and the *Distinguished Professor Award* in 2007 for lifetime achievement, especially in classroom teaching. I have traveled to India, Belgium, France, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Amsterdam, Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland, Australia and even little Liechtenstein! However, my first love is always London where I am happy to lead you to fascinating destinations and spaces!

Course Description

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the vibrant world of British drama and culture. Experience the magic of live productions in London's iconic West End. Wander through the bustling streets of Covent Garden, where buskers and street theater artists captivate audiences with impromptu acts. Learn about staging, pacing, directorial discretion, lighting, costuming, music, directing, art, and set design. Tours of the fabulous National Theatre on Southbank and Shakespeare's Globe are combined with a visit to the Bard's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. Other field trips may include Canterbury, Bath, Brighton, and Hampton Court Palace. Return home with a treasure trove of thespian experiences and knowledge about the evolution of drama from classical times to modern-day productions in some of the most fabulous theaters you've ever visited!

Course Level and Credit Hours

Undergraduate Lower and Upper Division credit.

Prerequisite(s)

Students will need to complete their basic college writing requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

1. **Discuss** Aristotle's seminal work defining the nature of tragedy and the six elements of drama in the *Poetics*, a foundational work of literary criticism in the 4th century BCE. Aristotle analyzes the principles of Greek tragedy and epic poetry. He is famous for the six elements of tragedy.
2. **Appreciate** drama as literature and as performance. The intersection of page and stage is the focus for literary analysis and discussion, pre-show and post-show.
3. **Understand** the value of a backstage tour. We will go backstage and "behind-the-scenes" for sure at Shakespeare's Globe Theater on Bankside (required) and, tentatively, the National Theater in London (comprising the Olivier, Lyttleton, and Dorfman venues) or the Theater Royal Drury Lane.
4. **Compare and contrast** theatrical styles (e.g., pantomime, Absurdism, Expressionism, Musical Theatre, street theater, and everything in between). Students will be able to expand their appreciation of England's greatest playwright by spending time in

Syllabus

Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, while they visit several properties. We will visit the site of the Royal Shakespeare Company on Waterside in Stratford-upon-Avon and other Shakespeare-related properties, such as The Church of the Holy Trinity and the Birthplace on Henley Street. Additionally, if we are able, we will visit the literary treasures of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

5. **Identify** the collaborative aspects of theater production. Students will be able to discuss *direction and vision; scriptwriting; set design; costume and makeup design; lighting and sound; and acting and ensemble work*. A piece of theatre has not come from the mind of a single creator, but from a large group of people working toward a common goal. Augusto Boal reminds us that "theater is the art of looking at ourselves."
6. **Evaluate** various aspects of drama. Students will confidently be able to make comparative and contrast comments after seeing four productions in London (required). These plays usually comprise a mix of musicals, classical, and modern drama. Students may be required to see one additional performance based on costs. These onsite discussions are some of the best moments in the class.

Required Readings and Materials

Pre-London reading: It is strongly encouraged that you prepare some pre-reading before your journey begins. Here are some resources for the modern drama class. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ EVERY SINGLE ITEM MENTIONED HERE, BUT YOU MUST HAVE A SENSE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Aristotle's Poetics.** <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.1.1.html> (Aristotle's Poetics).
 - a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BWPREP_8Xg (on the Poetics)
 - b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGlQkaolFI> (Tragedy lessons from Aristotle)
 - c. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOv2wKZKJE&ab_channel=Carneades.org (6 elements of Tragedy)
2. **Overview of drama in the 20th Century:**
<https://www.bachelorandmaster.com/englishperiods/twentieth-century-drama.html> (Overview of drama in the 20th century)
3. Good Slideshare presentation on various theater styles, including Classical, commedia dell'arte, symbolism, naturalism, realism, expressionism, absurdism, modernism, postmodernism etc.
https://www.slideshare.net/SalvatoreGiovanniSorce/theatre-styles?utm_source=slideshow02&utm_medium=ssemail&utm_campaign=share_slideshow_loggedout

Assignments and Grades

JUST AN EXAMPLE LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS – WINTER PROGRAM		Points
Pre-departure summary of assigned article or essay (Due: Dec. 20, 2025)		50
A brief PowerPoint slide show (10 slides with information) in response to the instructor's prompt. The actual presentation will be given on site at the hotel.		100

Syllabus

Brief analyses (500-700 words) of two plays (2 @ 75 each) *	150
Longer Essay-length analyses (800—1200 words) of two plays (2 @ 150) *	200
Review of our Field Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon (800-1000 words) *	100
Reflective Journal of Daily Activities (1.5 pages per day) *	150
Researched Essay (1000—1500 words) based on Instructor's Question *	150
Attendance and General Participation	100
<i>*These assignments will be completed upon return and due January 30 or early February. Create drafts of assignments on-site in London to make editing easier when you get home. Lower-division students will have a different rubric. Details on site.</i>	
TOTAL POINTS	1000
Scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; <600 = F	

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; <559 and <559 = F.

- **Credit for Honors classes will likely include one additional essay**
- **Credit for Lower Division classes will include one less essay, and the grading rubric will be slightly more relaxed.**

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a **tentative list** which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips before the departure date.

- Fireworks NY Eve! (fer shure!!) details on site about safe ways to view
- National Theater London (backstage tour)
- Globe Theater London (backstage tour)
- Victoria and Albert Museum; Westminster Abbey; West End Theater District
- Harrods, Selfridges, Primark, Oxford & Regent Street for Xmas decorations
- Fortnum and Mason in the Royal Exchange London
- IFS Cable Car Ride above the Thames River
- Tower of London (all that terrific bling with the Crown Jewels)
- Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon
- Hampton Court Palace, Stonehenge, Salisbury
- Canterbury, Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, Brighton, Winchester, Southend on Sea

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Syllabus

Students have four simple rules to follow:

- (1) Be there for all classes, all events, and all tours required by the instructor for those taking the class for credit.
- (2) Pay great attention to punctuality. Any student who does not come to a class without notifying me in advance will receive a penalty deduction. I will send a director to check on you.
- (3) You are not permitted to do your own thing until I have dismissed the class from official activities. Have no fear. Because I have taught this course so many times (and truly love what I do), you will not be taken to “boring” sites!
- (4) Maintain excellent communication before, during, and after the program to ensure the maximum enrichment and success from your experience abroad.

Academic Integrity Policy

The instructor reserves complete authority and right to assign a grade of F for the paper in question and/or a grade of F for the entire course. I may choose to initiate a student's expulsion from the course if clear and incontrovertible evidence warrants an accusation of cheating or plagiarism. Students are particularly urged to steer clear of copying material from the Internet without using proper MLA citation guidelines. When in doubt, please ask your instructor for clarification if you feel you might be inadvertently or consciously engaging in borderline plagiarism.

Details of this course's AI policy will be provided in the final class syllabus.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

3-5 miles is a bare minimum. Most students in my classes knock out 6-8 miles per day based on the activity for that day. The best advice I was ever given for studying abroad is this: **find the most comfortable walking shoes on the planet**. Don't try to break in a new pair of shoes 2 days before travel.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.



Syllabus

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.