

M & W 9:30 – 10:45 am NAC 6/304

Instructor: Grazyna Drabik (English Dept.)

Off. Hours Wed. 12:30 – 2:30 pm; NAC 6/344; ext. 6333; gdrabik & ccny.cuny.edu

Tech fellow: Andres Orejuela

Off. Hours Th. 12 - 4 pm at HC; aorejuela3@gmail.com

**Schedule of class meetings and assignments:**

- W Sept. 30                      Cont. discussion of the novel *Let the Great World Spin*  
 On theatre – in preparation for performance of *Cloud Nine*  
 A short critical intro to Churchill's work by Peter Buse is available on British Council's site: <http://literature.britishcouncil.org/caryl-churchill>  
 Few words on Caryl Churchill: Albert Connolly  
 Few words on Atlantic Theatre Company: Sarah Dunford
- F Oct. 2 at 8 pm Atlantic Company Theatre: *Cloud Nine* by Caryl Churchill.** Director: James MacDonald; scenic design: Gabriel Berry; lighting: Scott Zielinski; sound design: Darron L. West. We meet 7:40-7:45 pm in front of Linda Gross Theatre 336 W. 20<sup>th</sup> St. between 8th And 9th Ave (or in the theatre's lobby, if it's raining), for the performance at 8 pm
6. M Oct. 5                      • Poem: Gregory Corso "The Whole Mess... Almost" ( p. 148)  
 Discussion of our "theatre experience": the play, the performance, the night out  
 In preparation for discussion think about: How would you define the main themes & issues Churchill is trying to highlight in her play? How did the playwright structure her story (stories)? How did the director present it on the stage? Which elements of the performance did you find particularly effective, and why?, ect.
- Oct. 7                              • Poem: Billy Collins "Man Listening to Disc" ( p. 173)  
 The art of listening  
 In preparation for this session think about: What kind of music do you listen to with attention (not just as "background noise")? What are rewards of such attentive listening? Can you recall moments when music moved you? What might be a special appeal of specific instruments or of singing?  
 In preparation for *Tosca*:  
 Few words on Puccini: Michaela McGovern  
 Few words on Metropolitan Opera: Jennifer Chang
7. M Oct. 12                      no classes. College closed - Columbus Day
- Oct. 14                              • Poem: Langston Hughes "The Weary Blues" ( p. 64)  
 Required reading: Act I of *Tosca's* libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa  
 Libretto in English (& lots of info on *Tosca*, Puccini, & other operas):  
<http://www.opera-guide.ch/opera.php?id=286&uilang=en>  
 and numerous other opera sites  
 Few words on human voice: Alex Legg & Olivia Murphy
- Th Oct.15 Al-Hijara - Islamic New Year
- F Oct. 16 at 7:30 pm Metropolitan Opera: Puccini, *Tosca*.** Conductor: Plácido Domingo; production: Luc Bondy; set designer: Richardo Peduzzi; costumes: Milena Canonero; lightening: Max Keller. Oksana Dyka (*Tosca*), Massimo Giordano (*Cavaradossi*), Roberto Frontali (*Scarpia*). We meet 7:10 -7:15 pm at the fountain on the plaza of Lincoln Center (in front of Metropolitan Opera), W. of Broadway between W. 63rd – W. 65<sup>th</sup> St.

8. M Oct. 19 Discussion of *Tosca* - the story, the music, the singing, the visual feast, & as the "night at the opera"  
**Note: bring a brief report** about a) the already completed and b) planned visits to dance performances & concerts (what; where; when; with whom; and why – described in one sentence!)

Oct. 21 • Poems: Denise Levertov "The Cabdriver's Smile" (p. 98) &  
 • Edward Hirsch "Man on Firescape" (194)  
 The art of showing & the art of seeing  
 On the nature of "performing arts" & the art of writing about performances  
 In preparation for *Before Your Very Eyes*:  
 Few words on Gob Squad: Anthony Alston  
 Few words on The Public Theater: Lior Agaronov

**W Oct. 21 at 7:30 pm Gob Squad, *Before Your Very Eyes***

We meet 7:15-7:20 pm in the lobby of The Public Theater 425 Lafayette St. (at Astor Pl., East Village). The performance is short, ca. 1 hr, but on Wed. night there will also be a post performance meeting with the actors for Q&A session

9. M Oct. 26 • Poems: Nicholas Christopher "Construction Site, Windy Night" (p.201) &  
 • Thomas M. Disch "The Argument Resumed..." (p. 170)  
 Discussion of the performance *Before Your Very Eyes*  
 Mysteries of time: art vs. science?  
 Few words on "time" as a dimension (physics concept)  
 Arianna Injeian & Sabrina Cohn

Oct. 28 On dance: classical & modern  
 Discussion of *Dancemaker* (1999), a doc. film by Matthew Diamond about Paul Taylor – watched on your own before this Monday session.  
 for a sample of Paul Taylor Dance Company performance, see e.g. Bach Stokowski: Toccata & Fugue 'Promethean Fire': <https://youtu.be/N-KFRwETojc>  
 Few words on classical ballet: Kylie Lang & Kyra Koe

St Oct. 31 Halloween; 1-2 Nov. All Saints & All Souls Day

10. M Nov. 2 **Paper #2 due:** on your chosen dance & musical performances