There’s drama everywhere— and this course is about “drama” as a vernacular phrase, a literary genre, and an aid to cultural theory. Our seminar will include literary genres that were meant to be performed, from bardic poetry to drama and slam poetry. We will cover the transition from religious ceremony to urban professional theatre, including both stage and typographical conventions. We’ll examine the impact of theater and film on the form and content of other literary genres, such as the novel. Our primary frame for exploring drama in all these varieties will be theories of performativity—how we do things with words, gestures, and clothing such as signal desire, identity, and belonging.

Likely authors include Aristophanes, Terence, Ovid, Shakespeare, Milton, Behn, Dryden, Brockden Brown, Melville, Achebe, Parks, Kennedy, and Naylor. Likely theorists include Louis Althusser, J.L. Austin, Judith Butler, Phillip Brian Harper, and Marquis Bey.

For more info about the Queens College English Honors Program, visit https://qccenglish.commons.gc.cuny.edu/undergraduate/honors-program/
To apply for the English Honors Senior Seminar, contact Prof. Annmarie Drury: annmarie.drury@qc.cuny.edu.