

# THEA 207 / ENGL 221 Classic Theatre Seminar

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies

Trimester 2 2008

22 Points (CRN 13115 & 13121)



*LE MISANTHROPE* BY MOLIÈRE, THÉÂTRE FRANÇAISE DE TORONTO 2007

## STAFF

Course co-ordinator is Megan Evans (77 Fairlie Terrace, 302; ph 463 9793).  
Office hours posted on door. Email: [megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz)

Lecturing will be shared by David Carnegie (77FT/308, ext. 6825) and  
Matt Wagner (77FT/310, ext 6712).

Seminar will be taught by Kerry Palmer, email: [kerrylnisa@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrylnisa@hotmail.com)

## CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lecture: Noon-1pm 77 FT Room 306

Seminar: Wednesdays 5-7pm 77 FT Room 205

Morning classes in period dance with Jennifer Shennan: 9-10am July 14, 16 (Studio 77),  
Aug 11, 13 and Sept. 1, 3 (93 KP).

## COURSE AIMS CONTENT

This course provides a critical study of the dynamics of performing plays from three major periods of Western drama: Elizabethan, Neoclassical, and Greek. Investigation of historical conditions of performance will form the basis for seminar discussion and analysis of performed scenes from selected plays.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should:

- be conversant with the principal features of theatrical style, convention, and place in society of three periods of Western theatre history;
- be aware of the performance possibilities of selected plays;
- have a secure grounding in the dramaturgy of three traditions.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 15 hours per week to a 22-point course at 200 level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 11 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and writing your assignments. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more.

## READINGS

*The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*, ed. W. B. Worthen, 4th ed (Boston, 2004).

Course Reader (available from Student Notes) including Introductory material and *The Misanthrope* by Molière

Choice of Theatre History Text:

*Oxford Illustrated History of the Theatre*, John Russell Brown, ed. (Oxford, 1997) (more accessible) OR

*History of the Theatre*, Oscar G. Brockett, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> ed (Boston, 2004 or 2007) (more detailed)

Copies of both Theatre History Texts are also on Closed Reserve in the Central Library.

## ASSESSMENT

This course is internally assessed, with assessment comprising four assignments:

1. 1500 word dramaturgical report: due **Wed 6 Aug**, 5pm 25%
2. in-class test: **Thur 17 September**, 5-5.50pm 15%
3. 2500 word essay: **Fri 10 October**, noon 40%
4. seminar presentation: dates to be announced 20%

Further details on these assignments will be available early in the trimester.

### Relation of assessment to objectives:

The **dramaturgical report** allows a close analysis of how the dramaturgical strategies employed in *The Tempest* function in performance. The **in-class test** provides an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the texts and theatrical conventions of several periods studied. The **essay** allows students to demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual and social environment within which theatrical conventions of periods studied have their meaning. The **seminar presentation** encourages research into the

production history of a particular text, or a closer examination of specific aspects of a theatrical movement.

## **PENALTIES**

### **Extensions and Absolute Deadlines**

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate) work handed in late will lose a grade (e.g. drop from B+ to B, etc.) for each day or part day late, starting from the hour the work is due. Work submitted more than a week late without an extension may not be marked. Requests for extensions must be made to the course coordinator. They will not be given lightly and must be made well before the due date, in writing using the extension form available on Blackboard, attaching any relevant documentation, and must be signed by the course co-ordinator and attached to the report when submitted. Comments on late work will be minimal. **If you fail to hand in work before the one-week deadline, you may be considered as having failed to meet the mandatory course requirements and therefore fail the course.** Extensions will not be granted beyond Mon 20 October, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period.

**Aegrotat** provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. The Aegrotat procedures are listed in Section 6 of the Examination Statute in the University *Calendar*. In such a case you should also contact the course co-ordinator.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to pass the course, a high standard of attendance (at least 80% of lectures, 9 out of 11 seminars, all 3 scene presentations – attendance will be noted) and completion of all assignments is required as well as achieving an overall passing grade.

## **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Note that any additional information or changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard as well as the course notice board at 77FT level 3. Please check notice locations regularly. Also check your email regularly, ensuring your correct email address is listed on VUW Student Records.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as: *“The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.”*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words. *Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. **Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely.** Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

an oral or written warning ; cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course ; suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

A copy of the General University Statutes and Policies can be found on Blackboard.

## THEATRE FACILITIES

There are standard requirements regarding conduct within 77 FT, 93 KP and 225 Aro St:

### Smoking

**Smoking is not permitted.** Please smoke outside, away from doors, and dispose cigarette ends in the ashtray provided outside the main door at 77 FT.

### Food

Food and beverages (with the exception of water) **may only be consumed in the Green Rooms.** There is strictly no food allowed in the studio theatre, dressing room, film room, library, foyer area, and 93 KP or 225 Aro St (except kitchen area). Strictly no food or drink in the AV suite. Alcoholic drinks are not to be brought onto the premises unless authorized.

### Green Room

The Green Rooms at 77FT and 93KP are available to students working in the Theatre Programme. **You are expected to clean up after yourselves** (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Rooms and washing dishes or operating the dishwasher).

### Library

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace; however, please note that **books and other materials do not leave the building.** Please return books to shelves before you leave the library. There is also a small theatre video collection in the cupboard in the seminar room, for viewing within the building. Apply to the Administrator for the key.

## COURSE PROGRAMME

WK	READING & DUE DATES	SEMINAR Wed 5-7pm 77 FT/Rm 205	LECTURE Wed noon-1pm 77 FT/ Rm 306	LECTURE Thur noon-1pm 77 FT/ Rm 306
1	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> & Worthen 199-223	<i>Faustus</i>	9 July Intro ME/MW	10 July Elizn Staging MW
2	Oxford pp. 173-203 OR Brockett “Engl to 1642”	<i>Faustus</i>	16 July Renaissance Dance JS	17 July <i>Faustus</i> text analysis MW
3		<i>Faustus</i>	23 July <i>Faustus</i> text analysis MW	24 July <i>Faustus</i> in Perform MW
4	<b>Dress rehearsal</b> Tu 29 July, 6.30 STUDIO 77	<i>Faustus</i>	30 July Presentations of scenes from <i>Faustus</i> <b>STUDIO 77</b>	31 July Discussion of <i>Faustus</i> scenes
5	<b>DUE Wed 6 Aug., 5pm: <i>Faustus</i> Dramaturgical Report</b> <u>READ</u> : Intro material & <i>Misanthrope</i> in Course Reader	<i>Misanthrope</i>	6 Aug Intro to French Neoclassical Theatre – triumph of the neoclassical ideal ME	7 Aug French Staging  ME
6	Oxford chap. 7 OR Brockett “French Theatre to 1700”	<i>Misanthrope</i>	13 Aug Baroque Dance JS	14 Aug <i>Misanthrope</i> text analysis ME
			Mid-Trimester BREAK	
7		<i>Misanthrope</i>	3 Sept <i>Misanthrope</i> text analysis ME	4 Sept <i>Misanthrope</i> in Perform. ME
8	<b>Dress rehearsal</b> Tu 9 September, 6.30pm 93 KP	<i>Misanthrope</i>	10 Sept Presentation of scenes from <i>Misanthrope</i> <b>93 KP</b>	11 Sept Discussion of <i>Misanthrope</i> scenes
9	<u>READ</u> : <i>Lysistrata</i> and Worthen pp. 9-22; 97-105	<b>In class test: 5-5:50pm</b>  <i>Lysistrata</i>	17 Sept Intro to Greek Comedy DC	18 Sept Classical festivals and staging DC
10	Oxford chap 1 OR Brockett “Ancient Greece”	<i>Lysistrata</i>	24 Sept <i>Lysistrata</i> text analysis DC	25 Sept <i>Lysistrata</i> text analysis DC
11	Worthen 9-22, 97-105	<i>Lysistrata</i>	1 Oct <i>Lysistrata</i> text analysis DC	2 Oct <i>Lysistratia</i> in perform. DC
*12	<b>DUE Fri 10 October at noon—Final Essay</b>	<i>Lysistrata</i>	8 Oct Presentation of <i>Lysistrata</i> scenes <b>Amphitheatre</b>	9 Oct Discussion of <i>Lysistrata</i> scenes and course wrap-up
				<b>Fri 10 Oct 4pm: Spring finale—end of year party</b>