

THEA 201 THEATRICAL REVOLUTION: DRAMA FROM REALISM TO THE POSTMODERN

Trimester 1 2009

(Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June 2009)

22 Points



ENDGAME by Samuel Beckett, directed by Jan Bosse at the Deutsches Theater, Berlin

Ulrich Matthes as Hamm, Wolfgang Koch as Clov

STAFF

Course co-ordinator

Bronwyn Tweddle Room 301, 77 Fairlie Terrace

Tel: 463 6852

Email: bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz Office hours will be posted on her office door.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME THEA201/ENGL232 COURSE OUTLINE

Lectures will also be given by:

Matt Wagner Room 310, 77 Fairlie Terrace Tel: 463 6712

Email: matthew.wagner@vuw.ac.nz Office hours will be posted on his office door.

There may also be guest lectures by other VUW Theatre staff and theatre industry professionals. Tutors are Bronwyn Tweddle and Eleanor Bishop.

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lectures

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1.10pm – 2.00pm Room 306, 77FT

Tutorials

Tuesdays 11.00am, 1.10pm and 2.10pm Room 209, 77FT Eleanor Bishop

Wednesdays 2.10pm and 3.10pm Room 209, 77FT Bronwyn Tweddle

COURSE CONTENT

The past hundred years have seen change and challenge in the arts, just as in other aspects of society and technology. This course traces developments in dramatic writing beginning with the formative European playwrights Ibsen and Chekhov (read in translation), and moves through expressionism, Brechtian theatre forms and absurdist theatre to postmodernism. It also deals with aspects of the theatrical response to feminist and postcolonial questions, particularly in Aotearoa New Zealand. The course highlights the study of drama in performance by looking at performance elements such as theatre architecture, scenic design and approaches to acting. In addition, this course encourages you to become an enthusiastic, informed and critical theatre-goer, by including consideration of plays currently in production in Wellington theatres.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course Aims:

- To survey the history and current development of drama and theatre since the late nineteenth century.
- To develop a critical awareness of styles and theories of dramatic writing through a study of selected plays.
- To develop skills in reading the texts of dramatic literature.
- To develop a critical vocabulary for engaging with dramatic texts and theatrical performance.
- To use the Viewpoints structure to link the reading of dramatic texts with theatre principles taught in THEA 203

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students should

- be familiar with a selection of major plays and playwrights from the late nineteenth century to the present.
- be familiar with the conventions of major theatrical movements from the late nineteenth century to the present.
- be able to analyse modern drama in historical, cultural and performance contexts.
- recognise the distinct history and development of drama in Aotearoa, including Maori theatre.
- be able to use the Viewpoints concepts as a means of discussing production choices applicable to specific playtexts

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 essay writing.

READINGS

Required Texts

Most plays and readings will be contained in the course reader available from Student Notes (price tbc)

In addition you must buy:

Hone Kouka	<i>Nga Tangata Toa</i>	Wellington: VUP, 1994 (\$12.00 at Vic books)
Lorae Parry	<i>Eugenia</i>	Wellington: VUP, 1996 (12.95 at Vic books)

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

We encourage you to attend as much Wellington theatre as possible while you are taking this course, and you will need to budget for tickets to selected current productions as required for the dramaturgical analysis assignment.

ASSESSMENT

This course is internally assessed, with assessment comprising three written assignments.

Assignment 1: *Three short written pieces on topics covering first three course texts*
1,500 words, weighting, 30%. **Due: Friday 3 April, 5pm.**

Assignment 2: *A dramaturgical analysis of the theatrical production of a modern play currently in performance in Wellington.*

1500 words, weighting, 30%. **Due Friday 8 May, 5pm.**

Assignment 3: *Critical essay on a choice of topics related to the plays studied from Brecht onwards*
2000 words, weighting, 40%. **Due Monday 15 June, 5pm.**

Learning objectives and marking criteria are included in detailed assignment handouts (available on Blackboard)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each of the assessment tasks is designed to develop a range of skills in dramaturgical analysis, critical argument and research, and to highlight the cultural and artistic significance of theatre practice and playwriting.

The first assignment provides opportunity to analyse and compare some of the playscripts studied in the first part of the course in some depth. This assignment will develop skills in reading play texts, as well as contextualising them in relation to historical and cultural factors. The second assignment (a dramaturgical critique) is designed to involve you as an active participant in theatre as a dynamic form of social and artistic

expression. It asks you to view a current production in an informed, critical way by analysing the dramaturgical potential of the script together with the play in performance. The third assignment will enable you to discuss several of the plays studied in the second part of the course, and to come to some conclusions about the artistic and cultural significance of contemporary theatre.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate), or a previously agreed extension, work handed in late will normally lose half a grade (2.5%) for each weekday or part-weekday late, starting from the hour the work is due. Comments on late work will be minimal. Work submitted late without an extension will not normally be accepted if it is more than two weeks after the due date. **Note:** if you fail to hand in work by this two-week deadline, you will normally be considered as having failed to meet a mandatory requirement and therefore fail the course. Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. The Aegrotat procedures are listed in *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Extensions

If you wish to ask for an extension (e.g., because of pressure of work) please do so well before the due date. Extension requests on the day the assignment is due will not normally be accepted.

Requests for extensions must be made in writing, by filling out the extension form (available on your course Blackboard site) and getting your Course Co-ordinator to sign it. Only Course Co-ordinators may grant extensions, not tutors. The signed Extension form must be attached to the assignment when it is submitted, plus any relevant documentation. If circumstances prevent you from accessing the extension form, you must attach an email from the Course Co-ordinator, which confirms that an extension has been granted, to your assignment. In real emergencies we can of course be flexible, but the most important thing is for you to somehow let us know as soon as possible.

Extensions will not be granted beyond **15 June 2009**, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period. In such a case you should also contact the Course Co-ordinator. There is a university policy on reasonable accommodation with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see *Calendar* as above).

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course you must:

- Attend at least 9 out of 11 tutorials
- Complete all assignments
- Achieve a passing grade overall

PRESENTATION OF WORK

See detailed assignment documents for presentation details. Referencing of sources should be in the MLA style, in accordance with the 'Referencing for Theatre' document available on Blackboard.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such MATERIAL.

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

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

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and/or posted on the Theatre noticeboard, level three, 77 FT, and/or posted on Blackboard system. It is the students' responsibility to regularly check the noticeboards, Blackboard and their email. It is your responsibility to ensure that your tutor has your *current* email address and that you check your emails on a very regular basis. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 48 hours.

GENERAL ADVICE

A document about the use of Theatre programme Facilities and regarding conduct within 77 FT, 83 FT, 85 FT, 93 KP and 225 Aro Street is on Blackboard. Ensure that you read this during the first week of the trimester, as you will be required to abide by the standard rules.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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