



THEA 322
Special Topic:
Shakespearean
Dramaturgy
Trimester 1 2009
(Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June 2009)
24 Points

STAFF

Dr. Matthew Wagner

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Room 310 77 Fairlie Tce

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Mon/Tues 3:10-5:00

Room 305 77FT

COURSE CONTENT

This course is an advanced exploration in Shakespearean dramaturgy, or the ways in which meaning and soul are generated on a Shakespearean stage. We will consider the Shakespearean stage both in historical and contemporary terms; that is, we will examine stage work in Shakespeare's day in equal measure with the practice of Shakespearean theatre today. We will first take two weeks to consider the fundamentals of the Shakespearean stage (the ways, specific to Shakespearean Dramaturgy, that body, space, time, audience, and text are used). We will then study three plays over the next six weeks of the term, then select one of those plays to examine in greater detail during the final four weeks.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the completion of this course, students should have:

- A critical understanding of Shakespeare's stage-craft
- An understanding of the relationship between historical research and contemporary stage practices
- Experience in close, detailed play analysis
- A deep understanding of a single Shakespearean play, especially its theatrical implications
- Experience in critically assessing current Shakespearean performance
- Experience in researching theatrical performances

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will meet twice a week for two hours each session; these sessions will be very participatory in nature, much more akin to seminars than lectures. At least one hour a week will be spent in group work, and discussion is vital element of the course.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 16 hours per week to a 24-point course at 300 Level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, 12 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. You will also be required to attend at least one Shakespearean production over the course of the semester (see assessment, below), but I also strongly encourage you to take full advantage of the Complete Workes events in Wellington this year.

READINGS

Set Readings (available in Vic Books, Kelburn Campus):

- *Hamlet*
- *Henry IV, Part I*
- *King Lear*
- *The Winter's Tale*

Additional required readings will be announced in class (at least a week in advance) and distributed or posted on Blackboard.

ASSESSMENT

- 1) Dramaturgical Notes (30%; 3 sets x 10% each; each set approx 2 pages)
 - a. Due Weds following the unit on each play (Weds of weeks 4, 6, & 8)
- 2) Performance Analysis (due date tba; see below) – approx 3000 words (35%)
 - a. A dramaturgical analysis of your choice of one of the Shakespearean productions occurring in Wellington during the trimester; further guidelines will be handed out in class, and posted on Blackboard
 - b. The final deadline for the essay is the last day of classes; you can, however, submit your essay at any point during the trimester, and I strongly encourage you to write and submit the essay shortly after seeing the show of your choice. Essays will, however, not be marked until I've received them all.
- 3) Production Research Project -- equivalent of approx 2000 words (35%)
 - a. Individual Research Project into a 'high-profile' performance of a Shakespearean play in the last 40-50 years.
 - b. Further guidelines to be handed out in class, and posted on Blackboard
 - c. Due 15th May.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) The Dramaturgical Notes will help you stay on track with the reading, and help you focus your reading. They will also help you analyse the plays in terms of stage-craft.
- 2) The Performance Analysis will train your eye in terms of relating the written text to live performance – the key element of dramaturgical understanding.
- 3) The Production Research Project will help you analyse contemporary Shakespearean performance, and offer you experience in researching performances which you haven't seen.

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

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 extension, 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**, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period, **1 July**.

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 (2½%) 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/study/calendar.aspx>

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 the course you must:

- Complete and submit all assignments
- Achieve a high standard of attendance (missing no more than five sessions)
- Achieve an overall passing grade

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

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- 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

Additional information will be announced in class in the first instance, and posted on Blackboard and/or on the notice board in 77FT.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	2-3 Mar	Intro/Shakespearean Dramaturgy – Time (<i>Hamlet</i>)	
Week 2	9-10 Mar	Shakespearean Dramaturgy – Text, Audience, Body, Space (<i>Hamlet</i>)	
Week 3	16-17Mar	<i>1HIV</i>	
Week 4	23-24Mar	<i>1HIV</i>	(1HIV Notes DUE 5pm Weds 25 March)
Week 5	30-31Mar	<i>King Lear</i>	
Week 6	6-7 Apr	<i>King Lear</i>	(King Lear Notes DUE 5pm Weds 8 Apr)
Mid Trimester Break: (Good) Friday 10 April – Friday 24 April 2009			
Week 7	27-28Apr	<i>The Winter’s Tale</i>	
Week 8	4-5 May	<i>The Winter’s Tale</i>	(The Winter’s Tale Notes DUE 5pm Weds 6 May)
Week 9	11-12May	Recap/Choose Final Play	(Research Project Due 5pm Fri 15 May)
Week 10	18-19May	Final Play	
Week 11	25-26May	Final Play	
Week 12	2 June	Final Play and Course Wrap-Up – NOTE: No Class on Mon 1 June (Queen’s Birthday)	