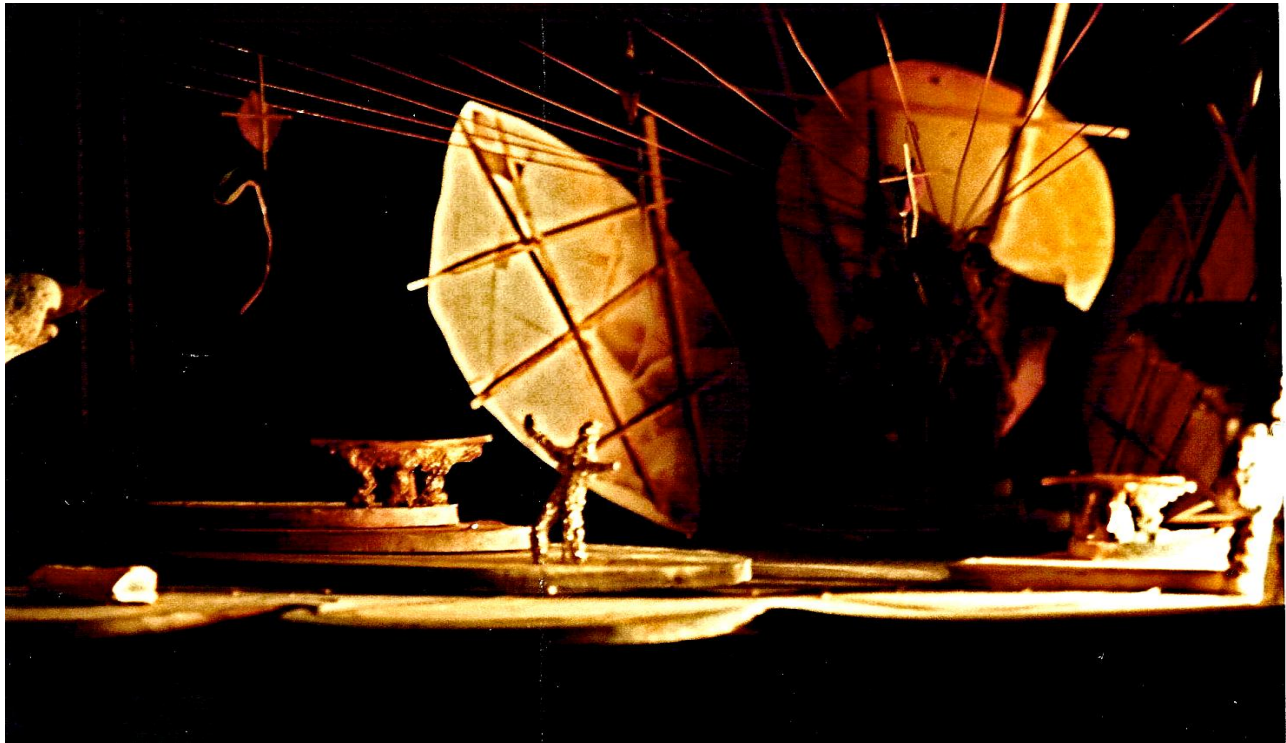


THEA 324 (CRN 11150)
SPECIAL TOPIC: THE SCENOGRAPHIC IMAGINATION



Teaching Staff

Course coordinator is **James Davenport** (77 Fairlie Terrace/203, phone 463-6842, james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz). The course administrator is **Jo Bean**, the Theatre Programme Administrator (FT77/307, phone 463-5359, theatre@vuw.ac.nz). Please see the Administrator for routine queries about, workshops, submitting essays, visits to theatres, etc.. Office hours will be posted on office doors.

Class Times and Venue

First trimester. Wednesday 10:00am to 12:50pm, Friday 2:00pm to 4:50pm 77 Fairlie Terrace, 102

Additional information

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard and the Theatre Programme notice boards on Level 3 of 77 Fairlie Terrace.

Course Content

This course will be a critical exploration of scenic and lighting/multi media design principles and techniques required to achieve holistic performance designs. The study of theoretical and artistic elements of scenography is at the core of this course. The course will include training in scenic and lighting/multi media design techniques such as, computer drafting, scale model building, painting techniques, elevation rendering, image and sound capturing and editing, and multimedia installation. Students will develop an understanding of performance design through play text and production design analysis, student design presentations, student design projects, and class discussions.

Required Text

Students are required to purchase *The History of Cardenio* at student notes. There are two other required texts: William Shakespeare's *Richard II* and *Pericles*. Any good edition will do.
Referencing Update for Students of English (posted on Blackboard)

Course Materials

A list of design materials will be given the first day of class for students to purchase.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should have:

- Analysed performance design and clearly articulated and communicated their critical response in word essay.
- Developed the ability through text analysis to design holistically for live performances.
- Gained a full understanding of core scenic and lighting/multi media design principles and techniques.
- Acquired skills in scenic, lighting/multi media design to communicate their designs clearly.
- Realized designs from playtext analysis to conception through to finished design projects.
- Developed a deeper understanding of the different types and styles of performance and how a holistic approach to performance design can impact on them.
- Developed a deeper understanding of the different types and styles of live performance and how technologies impact on them.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In order to pass this course you must:

- **Complete ALL assignments.**
- Achieve at least a C grade overall.
- Attend at least 20 hours of workshops.

Assessment:

2500 word essay	30%	Due: Fri 5 June
Design project	25%	Due: Fri 15 May
Two design presentations	25%	Due: Weds 11 March and Weds 8 April
Workshop participation	20%	Awarded: week ending Fri 12 June

Marking Criteria:

- Evidence of reflective, constructive, critically engaged appraisal
- Sensitivity to the design projects, and the tasks.

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.

Notes:

1) **FORMAT:** All written assignments must be presented in accordance with the style required in *Referencing update for Students of English* (see *Required Texts* above).

2) THEATRE PROGRAMME Extensions Policy

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>

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 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).

Relationship Between Assessment and Course Objectives

The scenographic 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 a play in performance. The scenographic critique allows you to extend and demonstrate your ability to analyse and write about plays scenographic elements in performance as well as contextualising them in relation to historical, critical, and cultural factors. The test is an opportunity for you to establish how effectively you can identify and discuss essential elements of design, terminology, drama, and critical approaches. The tutorial and workshop exercises will allow you to explore and demonstrate performance designs and creative aspects of theatre.

Workshop Participation

Students are required to attend at least 20 hours of workshop participation. Specific workshop days and times will be set within the first day of class after a conflict sheet is circulated with the students. **Workshop participation is part of the mandatory course requirements**; anyone for whom attendance presents intractable difficulties should contact the course coordinator immediately.

Workload

It is always difficult to precisely specify the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. 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 10 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, image collecting, thinking, writing and design work. The intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during project and production work when these hours will be significantly increased, particularly during the major production period in August and September. **YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT**, making sure you can balance your workload on this course with your work on other university courses. You should also take particular care with your general health and wellbeing.

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>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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

THEA 324: SPECIAL TOPIC: THE SCENOGRAPHIC IMAGINATION
2009 Teaching Schedule

Wk	CLASS (Wednesday 10:00am to 12:50pm)	CLASS (Friday 2:00pm to 4:50pm)	Other
1	4 March Course Intro; Discuss Plays and their requirements.	6 March Drafting-Floorplans/ Elevations/Working Drawings	
2	11 March Design Presentation #1 Pitch Designs in 301, 302 Joint class	13 March Scale Model Building	Design Presentation #1 DUE Weds 11 March
3	18 March Costume workshop #1	20 March Proscenium Theatres/Field Trip to ST James Theatre	
4	25 March Costume workshop #2	27 March Preliminary Design Presentations	Preliminary Designs DUE Fri 27 March
5	1 April Vector Works #1	3 April Vector Works #2	
6	8 April Design Presentation #2 Design Lecture and Final Set/ Costume/lighting Design Presentation for 301-302 Joint class	10 April Good Friday	Final Designs DUE Wed 8 April Design Presentation #2 DUE Weds 8 April
	13 – 24 April Mid -Trimester Break Build THEA 302 <i>Cardenio</i>	13 – 24 April Mid -Trimester Break Build 301 <i>Richard II</i>	
7	29 April Lighting Workshop Joint Class Run by THEA 324	1 May Lighting Workshop	
8	6 May AV/Lecture/Practical	8 May AV/Practical	
9	13 May Make up	15 May Make up	Design Project DUE Fri 15 May
10	20 May Tech Work	22 May Tech Work	
11	27 May Tech Work	29 May Tech Work	
12	3 June Lobby Presentation	5 June Finale Essay Due	Essay DUE Fri 5 June