

# THEA 403/ENGL 453 Drama and Theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies

Trimesters 1 + 2: 2 March-16 October, 2009

30 Points

#### **STAFF**

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# **CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS**

Alternate Weds starting 4 March 3.10–6pm FT77, 305

# **COURSE CONTENT**

The course will offer selected topics in the drama and theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand. A range of plays will be studied in relation to historical and contemporary theatre conventions, as well as from the point of view of a variety of critical approaches including nationalist, colonial, post-colonial, and feminist. There will also be an emphasis on research into aspects of New Zealand theatre history. Attention will be paid to Maori theatrical and paratheatrical forms, and to contemporary developments in syncretic and intercultural theatre.

# **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- To enable students to investigate the development of drama and theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand in historical, cultural and performance contexts.
- To explore recurrent themes in New Zealand drama and their relation to the construction of post-colonial identity.
- To develop research skills and clear critical writing about the history of New Zealand drama and theatre.
- To recognise and explore the influence of European (and other) dramatic styles on the development of New Zealand drama.
- To recognise and explore the influence of Maori and Pacific Island performance modes on the development of New Zealand drama, and to explore the distinct development of Maori and Pacific theatre
- To enable students to investigate a variety of critical approaches to New Zealand drama.
- To develop skills in close reading of New Zealand plays in a critical context.

# **EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 12 hours per week to a full-year paper in a 4–paper graduate programme. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 9 to 10 hours per week (apart from class time and screenings) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. At Honours level it is expected that students will attend every seminar; if you are going to miss a seminar, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible.

# **READINGS**

THEA 403/ENGL 453 Course Reader (available on loan from David Carnegie) Grace-Smith, Briar, Purapurawhetu (Wellington: Huia, 1999)

<sup>\*</sup> Kightley, Oscar, Dawn Raids (Wellington: Playmarket, 1997)

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Kouka, Hone, Waiora (Wellington: Huia, 1997)

Leitch, George, Land of the Moa (Wellington: VUP, 1990)

Mason, Bruce, The End of the Golden Weather, rev. ed. (Wellington: VUP, 1970)

McGee, Greg, Foreskin's Lament (Wellington: VUP, 1981) O'Sullivan, Vincent, Shuriken (Wellington: VUP, 1985)

Plays are available from the Victoria Book Centre. \* Dawn Raids will be provided in class.

A Handbook for Students of English Literature (about 100 pages on assessment, analyzing poetry, grammar, glossary of critical and theatrical terms, etc.) is available on-line at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

# **ASSESSMENT**

Assignment 1. Nineteenth-century theatre calendar

Due: 4 p.m. Fri 1 May 30%

**Assignment 2** Essay: A selection of topics based on the play texts taught in the course. Due: 4 p.m. Fri 21 Aug (3,000 words) 35%

Assignment 3 Essay: A critical analysis of a new New Zealand play in performance.

**OR:** Essay on an aspect of twentieth-century New Zealand theatre.

Due: 4 p.m. Fri 16 October (3,000 words) 35%

Further details on these assignments, including relation of assessment to objectives, will be available early in the year. **Essays must be submitted in duplicate**, so that copies are available for the external assessors.

#### **PENALTIES**

If you wish to ask for an extension please do so well before the due date. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate) work handed in late may receive little in the way of feedback. Work handed in more than a week late may not be accepted. Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. In such a case you should contact the course coordinator. Essays should be typed double-spaced, and should follow the *Guidelines for SEFTMS Students* style sheet.

Please note that grades gained in individual papers are always subordinate to the overall assessment made by the full group of examiners for the Honours programme as a whole. See the SEFTMS *Postgraduate Prospectus*.

#### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to pass the course, completion and submission of all assignments is required, as well as regular attendance and participation in seminar discussion.

# **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information or changes will be announced in class and/or posted on the course notice board at FT77, Level 3, and/or posted on Blackboard.

# **GENERAL ADVICE**

All students should prepare for each class by reading the relevant play and any critical readings set for that session. Each student will be asked to give one or two short (10–15 min.) seminar introductions on one or more of the set texts and topics for the course. These presentations will be expected to raise for class discussion some key issues about the performance dramaturgy of the plays. The presentations may also include short rehearsed scenes from the set texts. Contribution to discussions will not be formally assessed, but will be taken into account when the final grade is being considered. There will also be occasional video screenings (times to be notified in class and on noticeboard). 'Students are expected to be well-prepared for

<sup>\*</sup> Targuse, Violet, Rabbits, and Andrews, Isobel, The Willing Horse (in course reader)

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classes, particularly in their reading, and to be ready to participate in and lead discussion' (SEFTMS *Postgraduate Prospectus*).

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace. Please note that **Library materials do not leave the building**. The Green Room is also available to students in the Theatre Programme. You **are** expected to clean up after yourselves (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Room). If you wish to keep your own tea or coffee in the building, there is a locked cupboard for this purpose in the Green Room (see Administrator for a key). No food or beverages are allowed in the Library. A number of video tapes are held in the locked shelves in the Seminar Room; the key is available for the Administrator so that they may be viewed at any available VCR in the building. Tapes may not be taken out of the building.

# **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.

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#### **COURSE PROGRAMME**

Includes: lecture content, assessment dates and examination period if relevant

Week 1 4 March

Introduction. Research methods. Overview of NZ theatre history.

Week 3 18 March

Colonial theatre; touring. Land of the Moa. Readings: Simpson (4-11, 12-24)

Week 5 1 April

Finding a voice. Rabbits and The Willing Horse. Reading: Carnegie and Dunlop (25-32)

Week 7 29 April

Nationalism, The Players, and Kiwi identity. End of the Golden Weather. Readings: 'Nationalism' (33),

McNaughton (34–7) 1 May: Assignment 1 due

Week 9 13 May

State of the nation. Foreskin's Lament. Readings: Black (54-63), Carnegie (64-73, 74)

Week 11 27 May

War and nationalism. Shuriken. Readings: Black (75–84), Mann (85–92)

Mid Year Break (8 June-12 July)

Week 1 15 July

Postcolonial theatre. Waiora. Readings: Gilbert and Tompkins (38-45), Maufort (46-53)

Week 3 29 July

Maori theatre. Purapurawhetu. Readings: O'Donnell (93-5), Maufort (96-9)

Week 5 12 August

Pacific Islands theatre. *Dawn Raids* and *Bro' Town*. Readings: Carter (116–28), O'Donnell and Tweddle (129–38)

21 August: Assignment 2 due

Week 7 9 September

Devised theatre: an alternative tradition. Readings: Edmond (100–12), Johnston (113–15)

Week 9 23 September

Television drama in New Zealand. Reading: Dunleavy (161–7)

Week 11 7 October

Cultural policy. Reading: Carnegie (139-60)

16 October: Assignment 3 due