

THEA 204 Classic Theatre Workshop

Trimester 2 2009

22 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2009
Study week:	19 to 23 October 2009
Last piece of assessment due:	5pm, Monday 26 October 2009

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course co-ordinator:

Bronwyn Tweddle (BT)	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463-6852	Room 301, FT77
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Office Hours posted on door

Lecturing:

Matt Wagner (MW)	matthew.wagner@vuw.ac.nz	463-6712	Room 310, FT77
Megan Evans (ME)	megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz	463-9793	Room 302, FT77

Workshops: will be directed by guest directors, and MTA students.

Mentoring for design and technical elements

James Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463-6842	Room 204, FT77
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CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday & Wednesdays	1.10pm – 2.00pm	Room 306, 77FT
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Workshops (one of four groups)

Monday	2.00-4.00pm	Room 102 77FT (Studio 77)
Monday	4.00-6.00pm	Room 102 77FT (Studio 77)
Tuesday	11.00am-1.00pm	Room 102 77FT (Studio 77)
Tuesday	1.00-3.00pm	Room 102 77FT (Studio 77)

COURSE DELIVERY

THEA 204 consist of two lectures per week on historical background of the plays studied. There is also a two-hour practical workshop per week on scenes in small groups. Students will also be required to attend rehearsals (approx. 15 hours per four-week module) after hours. The timing of these rehearsals will be set

in the first workshop in week 1. Students are expected to attend all workshops and lectures, and rehearsals where called by their director.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any alterations or additional information will be announced in lectures, on Blackboard and on the class noticeboard on the top floor of 77FT. It is the student's responsibility to arrive punctually to class and to regularly check Blackboard and noticeboards, to ensure all new information is received. Also ensure your correct email address is listed on VUW Student Records, and check your email regularly.

COURSE CONTENT

This course provides a critical and practical 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 workshop exploration and presentation of scenes from selected plays.

LEARNING 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 developed skills in cooperative creative work through rehearsal and performance of scenes;
- have a secure grounding in the dramaturgy of three traditions.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to specify the workload in courses that 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 workshop time) in reading, thinking and writing your journal and reports. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more. Rehearsal (up to 15 additional hours per four-week module), practical tasks, learning lines, etc. will then add considerably to the time commitment. Because of the heavy time commitment, **undertaking theatre work additional to this course is not permitted, and may result in a failing grade**, with the exception of acting in **ONE** of the THEA 304 productions; but you **must** discuss the timing first with the course co-ordinator. Commitments to THEA 204 performances **must** take precedence over THEA 304 productions.

Please note: there will be a dress rehearsal Tuesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8, so plan ahead to be available.

GROUP WORK

You will stay with the same workshop group for the course, which will thus become, briefly, a company. Over the course of the three plays, each person may expect to be cast in at least one substantial acting role, probably one or two supporting roles, and at least one production role. While you will work closely in your workshop group, and your ability to work collaboratively in that context is part of your participation mark, your assessment is based solely on your individual contribution and written work.

READINGS

Essential texts: THEA 204/THEA 207/ ENGL 221 course reader, available from Student Notes (price tba).

This reader contains all three plays studied and historical background material for each period. It is, however, recommended, that students read more broadly on the topics studied.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer. After week two all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students must wear clothing in which they can move easily to all workshops and rehearsals: no jeans or hipster trousers.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is based on **Analytical Reports** derived from the practical work and reading in each of the three modules, and **Contribution** to the creation of each performance.

Each of the three modules contributes 33.3% to the total mark for the course:

- report 20%
- contribution 13.3%

a) Analytical Reports should not exceed 1,000–1,500 words, but feel free to include diagrams or illustrations in support of your arguments. Since you will be doing a lot of practical work, the word limits

are short, and concision will be valued by markers.

Content of the Analytical Report is to be made up of the following:

- The play in historical context: theatre, criticism, society (200–300 words)
- The dramaturgy and creation of your scene of the play (600–900 words)
- Dramaturgical comment on achievement of the other groups (200–300 words)

b) Contribution to the performance and Journal: attendance, reliability, ability to work collaboratively with others, and creative contribution will all be considered in awarding this mark.

In support of this you are expected to keep a **Journal**. This journal will not be assessed as such, but **must be submitted** with each Analytical Report for reference by the marker, and may be useful in supporting a positive assessment of your work.

Deadlines: <i>The Tempest</i>	12 noon, Mon 10 August 2009
<i>Tartuffe</i>	12 noon, Mon 21 September 2009
<i>Medea</i>	5pm, Mon 26 October 2009 (but earlier is better!)

See the Analytical Report and Journal ASSIGNMENT SHEET for additional information.

Relation of assessment to objectives:

The historical context element of each analytical report allows you to demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual and social environment within which particular dramatic and theatrical conventions have their meaning. The report on creative and dramaturgical work is an opportunity both to write about the relationship between play and performance, and to place individual and group creative achievement within a coherent intellectual framework of dramaturgical analysis. The critique of the presentations of the other groups allows you to apply what has been learned to a positive and analytical criticism of drama in performance.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

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

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

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, a high standard of attendance (at least 80% of lectures, and 100% at workshops/rehearsals – attendance will be noted) and completion of all assignments is required.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the journal will likely be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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 POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>

THERE ARE SPECIFIC RULES FOR CONDUCT WITHIN THEATRE PROGRAMME SPACES (77FT, 93KP, 85FT, 225 ARO ST) AND RULES FOR THE USE OF THE THEATRE. These are posted on Blackboard and students are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules and behave accordingly.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME: THEA 204 COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE PROGRAMME (LECTURE CONTENT)

Workshops weeks 1 – 4: <i>The Tempest</i>		
Week 1	Mon 13 July	Introduction (BT/MW)
	Wed 15 July	Elizabethan staging (MW)
Week 2	Mon 20 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Wed 22 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
Week 3	Mon 27 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Wed 29 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
Week 4	Mon 3 Aug	<i>The Tempest</i> in Performance (MW)
	Wed 5 Aug	<i>THE TEMPEST</i> PERFORMANCES
Workshops weeks 5 – 8: <i>Tartuffe</i>		
Week 5		THE TEMPEST ANALYTICAL REPORT DUE, 12 noon, Mon 10 August
	Mon 10 Aug	Discussion of <i>The Tempest</i> performances
	Wed 12 Aug	Introduction to French Neo-classical Theatre (ME)
Week 6	Mon 17 Aug	French staging (ME)
	Wed 19 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August– Friday 4 September 2009		
Week 7	Mon 7 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
	Wed 9 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
Week 8	Mon 14 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> in Performance (ME)
	Wed 16 Sept	<i>TARTUFFE</i> PERFORMANCES
Workshops weeks 9 – 12: <i>Medea</i>		
Week 9		TARTUFFE ANALYTICAL REPORT DUE, 12 noon, Mon 21 September
	Mon 21 Sept	Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> performances
	Wed 23 Sept	Introduction to Greek Tragedy (BT)
Week 10	Mon 28 Sept	Classical Festivals and Staging (BT)
	Wed 30 Sept	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
Week 11	Mon 5 Oct	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
	Wed 7 Oct	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
Week 12	Mon 12 Oct	<i>Medea</i> in Performance (BT)
	Wed 14 Oct	<i>MEDEA</i> PERFORMANCES

Study Period: Monday 19 to Friday 23 October 2009

MEDEA ANALYTICAL REPORT DUE: 5pm, Monday 26 October.