

# THEA 220 Special Topic: Scenography Introduction to Theatre Technologies and Performance Design

Trimester 2 2009

22 Points (CRN 11150)



## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2009

Last piece of assessment due: 26 October 2009

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

### Course Coordinator

James Davenport james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz 463-6842 Room204, FT77 Office Hours by appointment

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Wednesday and Friday

11:00am to 12:50pm

77 Fairlie Terrace, 102

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

## **COURSE CONTENT AND DELIVERY**

The content of this course will be delivered using lectures, practical workshops, and class discussions.

This course will explore the theoretical and practical elements of scenography and stagecraft necessary in mounting theatrical productions. The core of this course is intensive hands on training in performance technologies together with playtext and production design analysis, historical research, student presentations, and class discussions. Students will gain an overall understanding into the different disciplines of performance design, technical production roles, and theatre technologies past and present.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students passing the course should have ...

- Gained a full understanding of core technical principles in mounting a theatrical production.
- Learned stage terminology, stage directions, and the different kinds of theatrical spaces and their parts.
- Developed an understanding of all the responsibilities of the various designers and technicians involved in creating a theatrical production.
- Acquired a sound understanding of the basic elements of design, including scenic, lighting, sound, costume, and multi media design.
- Developed the skills to operate safely the theatre's technical equipment, including lighting units, lighting console, power tools, sound, and AV /multi media equipment.
- Gained an historical and theoretical insight into theatrical technologies.
- Developed a deeper understanding of the different types and styles of live performance and how technologies impact on them.

## **EXPECTED 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.

## **WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

The workshops will be scheduled in the Mid Trimester Break and students are required to attend at least 16 hours. There will also be extra workshop times in early September for those who have conflicts. 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.

## READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes 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](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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.

### Essential texts:

William Shakespeare *Pericles*

Charles Mee's *Big Love* (<http://www.charlesmee.org/html/about.html>)

Charles Mee's *Notes towards a Manifesto* (<http://www.charlesmee.org/html/about.html>)

## MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students are required to purchase a design materials package (NZ \$ 75.00) from Gordon Harris

Students must also purchase mask-making supplies from the course coordinator (NZ \$40.00)

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Assessment:

Design research presentations	30%	<b>DUE:</b> Friday 14 or Wednesday 19 August
Three design projects	30%	Project 1 <b>DUE:</b> Friday 21 August Project 2 <b>DUE:</b> Wednesday 23 September Project 3 <b>DUE:</b> Wednesday 14 October
1000 word scenographic critique of a play in production	20%	<b>DUE:</b> Monday 26 October
Workshop participation	20%	<b>Awarded:</b> week of 26 October

### Assessment will consider:

- 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.

## 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 (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/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](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 **Friday 13 November**, 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

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- **Complete ALL assignments.**
- Achieve at least a C grade overall.
- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

## 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 final

examination will obviously 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/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

## THEA 220 SPECIAL TOPIC: SCENOGRAPHY INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE TECHNOLOGIES AND PERFORMANCE DESIGN 2009 Teaching Schedule

Wk	CLASS (Wednesday 11:00am to 12:50pm)	CLASS (Friday 11:00am to 12:50pm)	NOTES
1	July 15 Course Intro; Creativity, The Kernel, Scribble #2	July 17 Scenographic Breakdown/flow chart of <i>Pericles</i>	Read <i>Pericles</i> before class on the 17 of July
2	July 22 Mask Design Fundamentals	1 July 24 Mask Design	
3	July 29 Lighting Design Fundamentals	July 31 Lighting Design	Read <i>Big Love</i> and Charles Mee's <i>Manifesto</i>
4	August 5 Audio Visual	August 7 Audio Visual	
5	August 12 Play text discussion of <i>Big Love</i> and Charles Mee's <i>Manifesto</i>	August 14 <b>Individual Research Presentations</b>	
6	August 19 <b>Individual Research Presentations</b>	August 21 <b>Design Project #1 Finished Masks</b>	<b>Design Project #1 Due Aug 21</b>
	August 24 – September 6 Mid -Trimester Break	August 24 – September 6 <b>Workshop Participation Build <i>Pericles</i></b>	
7	Sept 9 Stage Management Guest Speaker	Sept 11 Stage Management	
8	Sept 16 Costume Design Fundamentals	Sept 18 Costume Design Maquettes	
9	Sept 23 <b>Design Project #2 Finished Maquettes</b>	Sept 25 Introduction to power tools	<b>Design Project #2 Due Sept 23</b>
10	Sept 30 Model Building #1	Oct 2 Model Building #2	
11	Oct 7 Scale Scenic Design #2 Floor plans	Oct 9 Scale Scenic Design #3 Elevations	
12	Oct 14 <b>Design Project #3 Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	<b>Oct 16 Design Project #3 Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	<b>Design Project #3 Due Oct 14</b>

**Scenographic Critique due Monday, 26 October 2009**