

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

Trimesters 1 + 2 2010

1 March –13 November 2010

30 Points



NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

1/2	David O'Donnell	david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz	463 6828	FT77/303	Office hours on door
2/2	David Carnegie	david.carnegie@vuw.ac.nz	463 6825	FT77/308	Office hours on door

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Alternate Wednesdays starting 3 March 2010	3-6pm	FT77, 209
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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.

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	1 March 2010 to 15 October 2010
Mid-year break:	7 June to 11 July 2010
Study week:	18 October to 22 October 2010
Last piece of assessment due:	15 October 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

LEARNING 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

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 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.

THEA 403/ENGL 453 Course Reader (available from Student Notes)

Grace-Smith, Briar, Purapurawhetu (Wellington: Huia, 1999)

* Kightley, Oscar, Dawn Raids (Wellington: Playmarket, 1997)

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)

Targuse, Violet, Rabbits, and Andrews, Isobel, The Willing Horse (in course reader)

* 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 REQUIREMENTS

Assignment 1. Essay: A topic based on the play texts taught in the course

Due: 4 p.m. Fri 7 May (3,000 words) 30%

Assignment 2. 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 20 August (3,000 words) 35%

Assignment 3

Nineteenth-century theatre calendar

Due: 4 p.m. Fri 15 October 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.

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.

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

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day or part work day, starting from the hour the work is due. This means late work will drop one 'grade-step' every second day—i.e. from C+ to C, or A- to B+. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, completion and submission of all assignments is required in addition to achieving a passing grade, 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 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 from the Administrator so that they may be viewed at any available VCR in the building. Tapes may not be taken out of the building.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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 yourself 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_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	3 March	Introduction. Research methods. Overview of NZ theatre history.
Week 3	17 March	Nationalism, The Players, and Kiwi identity. <i>End of the Golden Weather</i> . Readings: 'Nationalism' (33), McNaughton (34–7)
Week 5	31 March	Postcolonial theatre. <i>Waiora</i> . Readings: Gilbert and Tompkins (38–45), Maufort (46–53)
Week 7	28 April	Maori theatre. <i>Purapurawhetu</i> . Readings: O'Donnell (93–5), Maufort (96–9) 7 May: Assignment 1 due
Week 9	12 May	Pacific Islands theatre. <i>Dawn Raids</i> and <i>Bro' Town</i> . Readings: Carter (116–28), O'Donnell and Tweddle (129–38)
Week 11	26 May	Devised theatre: an alternative tradition. Readings: Edmond (100–12), Johnston (113–15)
Mid Year Break (7 June–9 July)		
Week 1	14 July	Colonial theatre; touring. <i>Land of the Moa</i> . Readings: Simpson (4-11,12-24)
Week 3	28 July	Finding a voice. <i>Rabbits</i> and <i>The Willing Horse</i> . Reading: Carnegie and Dunlop (25–32)
Week 6	18 August	State of the nation. <i>Foreskin's Lament</i> . Readings: Black (54–63), Carnegie (64–73, 74) 20 August: Assignment 2 due
Week 8	15 September	War and nationalism. <i>Shuriken</i> . Readings: Black (75–84), Mann (85–92)
Week 10	29 September	Television drama in New Zealand. Reading: Dunleavy (161–7)
Week 12	13 October	Cultural policy. Reading: Carnegie (139–60) 15 October: Assignment 3 due