

THEA 401 / 501 & ENGL 451

DRAMA AND THEORY

Trimesters 1 & 2 2010

1 March –13 November 2010

30 Points



Public holidays this year: Easter: Friday 2 April-Tuesday 6 April 2010
Anzac Day (Sunday 25 April, Queen's Birthday (Monday 7 June)
Labour Day (25 October)

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

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Co-ordinator: Erin Mercer
Email: erin.mercer@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 463 6712
Room: 310, 77 Fairlie Tce
Office Hours: Erin's office hours will be posted on her door.

CLASS TIMES, LOCATIONS AND COURSE DELIVERY

The seminar is Wednesdays in alternate weeks from 3.10-6.00pm in Room 305, 77 Fairlie Terrace.
Please note that cell phones are to be turned off during classes.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information or changes will be sent by email in the first instance, so it is essential that students get an email address and check it regularly. Information may also be announced in class or posted on the course notice board at 77 Fairlie Tce, level 3.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will bring a selection of historical and contemporary critical perspectives to bear on a representative range of classical and contemporary dramatic texts. Topics covered will include pre-20th century dramatic theory (with focus on Classical Dramaturgy and Elizabethan Dramaturgy), and an in-depth

examination of more recent theoretical approaches, including semiotic, phenomenological, psychoanalytical, feminist, postcolonial and performance theories.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To develop an appreciation of various critical approaches to the art, experience, and social place of theatre and drama.
- To be able to analyse live performance and dramatic texts from a variety of critical approaches.
- To develop an awareness of the implications of these critical approaches to contemporary theatrical practise.
- To develop skills on close reading of plays in a critical context.
- To develop research skills and clear critical writing about theoretical and dramaturgical issues of drama and theatre.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

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 about 9 to 10 hours per week (apart from class time and screenings) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. At Honours and Masters 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

Set Texts

THEA 401/501 **Theory Reader**

THEA 401/501 **Play-text Reader**

Contains:

- Aeschylus, Agamemnon
- Brecht, Mother Courage and Her Children
- Chekhov, The Cherry Orchard
- Churchill, Cloud Nine
- Kushner, Angels in America, Part I
- Müller, Hamletmachine

Mark Fortier. **Theory/Theatre: An Introduction**. 2nd Ed. London: Routledge, 2002 - Available from Vic Books

The **following plays** will be ordered at Vic Books, but you are welcome to use any additions of these plays:

- LePage et al Seven Streams of the River Ota
- Genet, The Balcony
- Hwang, M. Butterfly
- Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Shakespeare, Hamlet
- Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

For the first two weeks of trimester all postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of Vic Books in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. 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.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment is internal.

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|----------------------|---|-----|
| Seminar Presentation | (approx. 30 minutes) and handout (max. 4 sides of A4) | 25% |
| Essay 1 | 2, 500 words (due Tues 15 June, 5pm) | 35% |
| Essay 2 | 3, 000 words (due Fri 24 Sept, 5pm) | 40% |

Relationship between assessment and objectives

All assessment has the twofold objective of assessing students' progress in the course and of providing feedback to assist students to achieve the course objectives.

Note: For Honours, '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' (*Graduate Programme in English, Film, and Theatre 2001*).

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

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.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, completion and submission of all assignments is required, as well as an overall passing grade. In addition, you must attend at least 10 of the 12 seminars.

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 should be typed or prepared on a computer.

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

The following text must be included in all course outlines.

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_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

THEA 401/501 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1

Week 2 March 10 Introduction/Classical Dramaturgy

Week 3

Week 4 March 24 Pre-20th Century Theatre Theory

Week 5

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 2 April - Sunday 18 April 2010

Week 6 April 21 Phenomenology

Week 7

Week 8 May 5 Semiotics

Week 9

Week 10 May 19 Psychoanalytic Theory

Week 11

Week 12 Jun 2 Theories of Actor Training

Mid-Year Break: Monday 7 June - Sunday 11 July 2010 **Essay 1 due Tues 15 June at 5pm**

Week 13

Week 14 July 21 Deconstruction

Week 15

Week 16 Aug 4 Cultural Materialism/Marxist Theory

Week 17

Week 18 Aug 18 Feminisms and Gender Theory

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 23 August - Sunday 5 September 2010

Week 19

Week 20 Sept 15 Postcolonial Theory

Week 21 **Essay 2 due Fri 24 Sept at 5pm**

Week 22 Sept 29 Postmodernism

Week 23

Week 24 Oct 13 Performance Theory