

THEA 207 / ENGL 221 Classic Theatre

Trimester 2 2011

11 July to 14 October 2011

20 Points



The Tempest, directed by Tina Landau, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, 2009

Photo by Michael Brosilow

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Study week:	17 to 21 October 2011
Last piece of assessment due:	14 October 2011

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 Coordinator:

Megan Evans (ME)	megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz	463-9793	Room 302, FT77
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Additional Lecturing:

James McKinnon (JM)	james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz	463-6115	Room 307, FT77
Bronwyn Tweddle (BT)	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463-6852	Room 301, FT77

Seminars:

Erin Mercer (EM)	erin.mercer@vuw.ac.nz	463-6712	Room 310, FT77
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CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures	Mon and Wed	2.10-3pm	Room 306, FT77
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Seminars	Mon OR Tue	3.10-5pm	Room 305, FT77
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COURSE DELIVERY

THEA 207/ENGL 221 consists of two lectures per week on historical background of the plays studied—these are shared with THEA 204. At the end of each module one of the lectures will consist of performances by the THEA 204 students of scenes from the plays studied. There is also a two-hour seminar per week in which students will be expected to actively contribute to the discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any alterations or additional information will be announced in lectures, on Blackboard and on the class notice board on the top floor of 77FT. It is the student's responsibility to arrive punctually to class and to regularly check Blackboard and notice boards, to ensure all new information is received. Also ensure your correct email address is listed on VUW Student Records, and check your email regularly. If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we **strongly encourage** you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

A critical study of the dynamics of performing plays from major periods of Western theatre, from the ancient Greeks to the nineteenth century (including Greek, Shakespearean and Neoclassical drama). Weekly seminar includes discussion of THEA 204 practical work. Co-taught with THEA 204. 100% internal assessment.

COURSE CONTENT

This course provides a critical study of the dynamics of performing plays from three major periods of Western drama: Renaissance England, Neoclassical France, and Ancient Greece. Investigation of historical

conditions of performance will form the basis for seminar discussion and analysis of performed 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 a secure grounding in the dramaturgy of three traditions.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 10 hours per week (apart from lecture and seminar time) in reading, preparation, thinking and writing your assignments. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more.

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.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 2011, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

Recommended Reading: *Living Theatre* Italy Chapter, on e-reserve through the VUW Library;

Brockett & Hilday, *History of the Theatre* (various editions) (more detailed historical information on the relevant periods), on 3-day reserve.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This course is internally assessed, with assessment comprising four assignments:

1. Dramaturgical Report: due **12 noon, Wed 10 August** (1500 words) 25%

2. In-class test: **3.10-4pm, Mon 21 OR Tue 22 September** (50 minutes) 15%
3. Essay: due **noon, Fri 14 October** (2500 words) 40%
4. Seminar Presentation: dates to be announced (20 minutes) 20%

Further details on these assignments will be available early in the trimester.

Relation of assessment to objectives:

The **dramaturgical report** allows a close analysis of how the dramaturgical strategies employed in *The Tempest* function in performance. The **in-class test** provides an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the texts and theatrical conventions of several periods studied. The **essay** allows students to demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual and social environment within which theatrical conventions of periods studied have their meaning. The **seminar presentation** encourages research into the production history of a particular text, or a closer examination of specific aspects of a theatrical movement.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office – room 202 in 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- 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)
- Attend 9 seminar sessions

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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Mon 11 July	Introduction (ME/JM/JDav)
	Wed 13 July	Renaissance staging (JM)
Week 2	Mon 18 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (JM)
	Wed 20 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (JM)
Week 3	Mon 25 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (JM)
	Wed 27 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (JM)
Week 4	Mon 1 Aug	<i>The Tempest</i> in Performance (JM) [POSSIBLE PERFORMANCES Studio 77]
	Wed 3 Aug	THE TEMPEST PERFORMANCES (Studio 77)
Week 5	Mon 8 Aug	Discussion of <i>The Tempest</i> performances (JM/ME)
	Wed 9 Aug	Introduction to French Neoclassical Theatre (BT)
		THE TEMPEST ANALYTICAL REPORT DUE, 12 noon, Wed 10 August
Week 6	Mon 15 Aug	French staging (BT)
	Wed 17 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (BT)
Mid Trimester Break:		Monday 23 August– Friday 3 September 2010
Week 7	Mon 5 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (BT)
	Wed 7 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (BT)
Week 8	Mon 12 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> in Performance (BT)
	Wed 14 Sept	TARTUFFE PERFORMANCES (93 KP)
Week 9	Mon 19 Sept	Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> performances (BT/ME)
		TEST: 3.10-4pm, Mon 21 OR Tue 22 September
	Wed 21 Sept	Introduction to Greek Comedy (ME)
Week 10	Mon 26 Sept	Classical Festivals and Staging (ME)
	Wed 28 Sept	<i>Lysistrata</i> Text Analysis (ME)
Week 11	Mon 3 Oct	<i>Lysistrata</i> Text Analysis (ME)
	Wed 5 Oct	<i>Lysistrata</i> in Performance (RL)
Week 12	Mon 10 Oct	LYSISTRATA PERFORMANCES (Amphitheatre)
	Wed 12 Oct	Discussion of <i>Lysistrata</i> Performances and Course Wrap-up
	Fri 14 Oct	Essay due 12 noon