

# THEA 210 Scenography: Introduction to Theatre Technologies and Performance Design

**Trimester 2 2011**

11 July to 12 November 2011

**20 Points**



## 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:

James Davenport [james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz) 463 6842 room 304, 77FT

(Office hours by appointment)

### Course Administrator:

Claire O'Loughlin [claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz) 463 5359 room 202, 83FT

(Office hours Monday—Friday, 10am–4.30pm)

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday and Friday, 10:00am–11:50pm, 77 Fairlie Terrace 102 (Studio 77)

## COURSE DELIVERY

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

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

This course explores theoretical and practical elements of scenography and stagecraft necessary in mounting theatrical productions, with intensive training in performance technologies with playtext and production design analysis, and historical research. Students will gain an understanding of the disciplines of performance design, technical production roles, and theatre technologies.

## 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 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 9 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.

### READINGS

#### Essential texts:

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>)

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](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 nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

### 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:

1000 word essay	30%	<b>DUE: 26 August</b>
Design project	40%	<b>DUE: 7 or 11 October</b>
Workshop participation	30%	<b>Awarded: week of 17 October</b>

Specific information and details on these assessments and grading criteria will be passed out in class. Each of the assessment tasks is designed to develop your skills in and knowledge of scenographic processes and theories covered in the lectures and workshops:

- The 1000 word essay is an analytical discussion of a live theatrical production. This will allow you to exercise critical thinking skills when considering and discussing the scenographic elements of a theatrical production. This essay will also enable you to examine and discuss how the specific scenographic elements influence the play text and production thematically and stylistically. How clearly and succinctly you communicate your insights and critical arguments will affect your assessment mark.
- The design project allows you to use the foundations of the performance design theories, practices and analytical skills acquired during the semester to realise your own scenographic design for a play text (TBA). The assessment mark will be determined on the design research, artistic merit, and overall presentation.
- Workshop participation is central to the learning in this course and the assessment mark will reflect your artistic work and personal contribution considering attendance, attentiveness, and professionalism in class and in all production work. You will be expected to work 20 hours outside of class on productions.

## ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

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

- Complete all assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
- Attend 80% of class sessions.
- Complete 20 hours of workshop participation.

### **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

*The following text must be included in all course outlines.*

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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/avcademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic).

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 210

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Wk	CLASS Tuesday 10:00am to 11:50am	CLASS Friday 10:00am to 11:50am	NOTES
1	July 12 Course Intro; Theatre Machines The Kernel, Scribble #2	July 15 Discuss <i>From The Secret of Theatrical Space</i> Handout. <b>Mask design Images</b>	<b>Mask image collections due July 15</b> Read <i>From The Secret of Theatrical Space</i> Handout
2	July 19 Lighting with Nick group 1 Mask workshop Jim group 2	July 22 Lighting with Nick group 2 Mask workshop Jim group 1	Read Maxim Gorky's <i>Summerfolk</i> by July 26th
3	July 26 Lighting Design for THEA 204 Designing a Wash/Floor plan	July 29 Pack In for THEA 204	204 pack in <b>Reading/discussion of Maxim Gorky's <i>Summerfolk</i> with David O'Donnell July 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Aro St</b>
4	August 2 Scenic break-down of <i>Summerfolk</i>	August 5 <i>Summerfolk</i> research presentation and discussion	
5	August 9 Introduction to Power Tools	August 12 Building flats and platforms	
6	August 16 TBA	August 19 <b>3 Minute Mask Performance</b>	<b>Mask Performance Aug 19</b>
	August 22 – September 4 Mid -Trimester Break <b>Build <i>Big Love</i></b>	August 22 – September 4 Mid -Trimester Break <b>Change Over THEA 303 to THEA 304 Fri, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 2pm</b>	<b>Essay Due Aug 26</b>
7	Sept 6 Model Building #1 77 ft mini me	Sept 9 Model Building #2 Scale Models	
8	Sept 13 204 10am 93 kp THEA 304 Problem Solving	Sept 16 TBA	<b>THEA 304 Tech/Dress</b> <b>Sept Sat 17, Sun 18, Mon 19, Tues 20</b>
9	Sept 20 Costume Design Fundamentals	Sept 23 Costume Design Fundamentals	<b>THEA 304 Performances</b>
10	Sept 27 TBA/Tech Big Love	Sept 30 In-Class Design Work with Jim	
11	Oct 4 In-Class Design Work with Jim	Oct 7 <b>Design Project Presentation Finished Set Designs for <i>Summerfolk</i></b>	<b>Design Project Due Oct 7,11</b>
12	Oct 11 <b>Design Project Presentation Finished Set Designs for <i>Summerfolk</i></b>	Oct 14 <b>Debrief Finale Theatre Appreciation Day</b>	<b>Theatre Appreciation Day</b>