

THEA 206 / 306 & ENGL 242 / 342

Dramaturgy of the Avant-Garde

Trimester 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

20 Points



To launch a manifesto you have to want: A, B, & C, and fulminate against 1, 2, & 3...I'm writing a manifesto and there's nothing I want, and yet I'm saying certain things, and in principle I am against manifestoes, as I am against principles...

-- Tristan Tzara, 'Dada Manifesto'

Hugo Ball, Dada Performance, Zurich, 1917

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Last piece of assessment due:	19 October 2012

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 McKinnon	james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz	463 6115	77FT/Room 307
	Office hours:			
Tutors:	Stella Reid	TBA	TBA	
	Fiona McNamara	TBA	TBA	
Course Administrator:	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	83FT/Room 202

Staff Office Hours and contact details are also posted on Blackboard. Tutors are best contacted by email.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures:

Monday	1.10pm – 2.00pm	HMLT002
Wednesday	1.10pm – 2.00pm	COTLT122

Seminars

Seminars begin in WEEK 2. Please register for seminars via the THEA 206/306 & ENGL 242/342 sites on Blackboard: go to “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Seminar rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the SEFTMS Reception, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

The course is taught in two one-hour lectures and one two-hour seminar each week.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard will be our primary medium for communicating, posting news and updates, and for disseminating and submitting assignments; in addition, some assignments entail contributing to online discussions on Blackboard. Therefore I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with Blackboard and *check the site frequently*. It is your responsibility to arrive punctually and to regularly check Blackboard and notice boards, to ensure all new information is received. Also ensure your correct email address is listed on 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

This course explores avant-garde drama and its theatrical conventions through the theory and practice of dramaturgy. Dramaturgy is the study of how meaning is generated in drama and performance. The heart of the course exposes students to the varied labours of dramaturgy, via a study of selected plays and a series of corresponding articles about dramaturgy. One or two of the plays are to be selected for more detailed study and dramaturgical analysis during the final weeks of the course. This course aims to a) broaden students' exposure to the dramatic literature of the theatrical avant-garde; b) deepen students' engagement with differing conventions of the avant-garde on stage, and the philosophical underpinnings of those conventions; c) provide students with a critical understanding of and practical experience in dramaturgical work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through this course, students will:

- Develop a sense of what dramaturgy is and what the specific labours of dramaturgy entail;
- Explore the different dramaturgical labours demanded by varying modes of the theatrical avant-garde;
- Gain an understanding of the aims and philosophies that prompted the formation and development of the avant-garde movement.
- Read a range of avant-garde drama, and analyse these texts dramaturgically;
- Research existing critical thought on dramaturgy and on the theatrical avant-garde;
- Learn to analyse and critique avant-garde plays in depth from a dramaturgical perspective;
- Refine their skills in critical writing about theatre.

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 expect to spend, on average, about 12 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking devising and rehearsing creative projects, and writing. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some of you will find you need or want to do more. I also encourage you to attend as much Wellington theatre as possible while you are taking this course.

READINGS

Essential texts:

The Routledge Drama Anthology and Sourcebook: From Modernism to Contemporary Performance. Maggie Gale & John Deeney (eds). London: Routledge, 2010.

Other readings will be distributed on Blackboard.

All undergraduate textbooks will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

GROUP WORK

This course involves a significant group work component. Twice during the term, you will work with a group of 4-6 classmates in your seminar preparing a ~10 minute performance-based inquiry into a specific aspect of the dramaturgy of the real, after which your group will lead a discussion based on your performance. Although you will work in groups on these projects, you will be marked individually.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment is internal.

- **Final Research Project** 2500 word equivalent, worth **30%** of the grade. The essay is **due 19 October**. The final research project will further students' writing skills, and allow the opportunity for an in-depth articulation of the field of dramaturgy (including relevant scholarship) and of the dramaturgy of a particular play.
- **Practical Dramaturgy**, worth **40%** of the grade, due as scheduled in Seminars. You will collaborate in groups on two practical dramaturgy projects which entail creative and performative investigations of the texts on the course. The first will involve addressing the problem of history: what happens when the playwright's "reality" becomes the audience's history? The second will entail an exploration of the limits of realism: what happens when the illusion of reality (scenic, psychological, perceptual, or otherwise) is pushed to the limits? What would that idea even mean in practice? For each project you will collaborate with a group on creating short performance followed by a discussion. Assessments are based on the deployment of dramaturgical skills and techniques in a creative and critical investigation of specific questions about "realism," including both the performance and the discussion which follows it.

- **Dramaturgical Workbook**, (roughly the equivalent of 2000 words), worth **20%** of the grade, **due weekly from 17 July to 9 October**.

This project entails **6-8** brief writing assignments devoted to various aspects of dramaturgy, including responses to readings and reflections on your collaborative creative projects. These assignments will improve your writing skills and help you track your own learning. **Each submission will be marked out of 10, and the maximum number of points you can earn is 60.**

- **Course Contribution**, worth **10%** of the grade. This includes contributions to seminars, Blackboard-based discussion, and other work (e.g. helping a group of classmates with a practical project).

All 300-level work will be marked at an appropriately higher standard.

Further details and guidelines for each assignment are posted on Blackboard.

Relationship between Assessment and Course Objectives

Practical Dramaturgy assignments build skills in and connections between creative and critical thinking, develop communication and leadership skills, develop specific skills and general experience in dramaturgy, and enable sustained, in-depth encounters with the primary texts, their contexts, and their unique dramaturgy. The **dramaturgical workbook** is designed to familiarise you with approaching the primary texts and the genres they represent by addressing critical and creative questions about avant garde drama in short writing assignments. Over the course of the term, you will write several short submissions and get regular, prompt feedback, which will increase your confidence and competence in dramaturgical analysis and in general written communications skills. The **final project** then asks you to extend and expand the skills you've developed in the other assignments by undertaking an original research project that addresses some aspect of the dramaturgy of the avant garde. This project allows you to research an important theoretical concept, apply it to the theatrical, and contextualise it in relation to historical, critical, and cultural factors, exercising creative, critical, and communication skills.

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 and seminar time. **All assignment submissions in this course are on blackboard.**

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 that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties: 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 specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend and participate in seminars consistently, as determined by consensus with your tutor and seminar classmates.

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. Your resource book 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

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.

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

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 206/306 & ENGL242/342

THEA 206/306 & ENGL 242/342 Course Programme

Week 1	Mon 16 July	Introduction
	Wed 18 July	What is dramaturgy? What is the avant-garde?
Week 2	Mon 23 July	Symbolism (Maeterlinck)
	Seminar 1	
	Wed 25 July	
Week 3	Mon 30 July	Expressionism (Kokoschka)
	Seminar 2	
	Wed 1 Aug	
Week 4	Mon 6 August	Surrealism & Dada (Tzara, Artaud, Appollinaire)
	Seminar 3	
	Wed 8 August	
Week 5	Mon 13 August	Futurism (FT Marinetti)
	Seminar 4	
	Wed 15 August	
Week 6	Mon 20 August	Political Avant Garde: Materialism & <i>Verfremdungseffekt</i> (Brecht)
	Seminar 5	
	Wed 22 August	
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012		
Week 7	Mon 10 September	Theatre of the Absurd (Ionesco? TBA)
	Seminar 6	
	Wed 12 September	
Week 8	Mon 17 September	The Feminist Avant-Garde: Representation & Subjectivity
	Seminar 7	
	Thu 19 September	

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Week 9 Mon 24 September Intermediality & *Polygraphe*

Seminar 8

Wed 26 September

Week 10 Mon 1 October Post-Dramatic Theatre & Forced Entertainment

Seminar 9

Wed 3 October

Week 11 Mon 8 October Contemporary Performance/High Performance: Laurie Anderson

Seminar 10

Wed 10 October

Week 12 Mon 15 October Wrap-up, conclusions: Is there a “Post-Avant-Garde”?

Final Seminar

Wed 17 October

Fri 19 October

