

THEA 401 / 501 & ENGL 451 Drama and Theory

Trimester 1 + 2 2012

5 March to 12 November 2012

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	5 March to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	6 to 22 April 2012
Mid-year break:	5 July to 15 July 2012
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	27 August to 9 September 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 Co-ordinator: James McKinnon Email: james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz Ph: 463 6115

Room 307, 77 Fairlie Tce Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Administrator: Cathy McCullagh Email: cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz Ph. 463 5359

Room 202, 83 Fairlie Tce Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4.30pm

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Wednesday, alternate weeks 3:10pm – 6:00pm Seminar Room 208, 77 Fairlie Terrace

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be delivered through fortnightly 3-hour seminars, involving discussion and presentations.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be announced in class, or posted on Blackboard and the courses notice board, 77FT, level 3. Considerable time, additional to that formally timetabled, will be spent on group and class production projects, including 3 workshops taking place over weekends.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

In this course, a range of historical and contemporary critical and theoretical perspectives are brought to bear on a representative range of classical and contemporary dramatic texts. Topics covered include classical dramatic theory and dramaturgy, contemporary performance theory, feminist, psychoanalytical, postmodernist, intercultural and postcolonial approaches.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able...

1. To develop an appreciation of various critical approaches to the art, experience, and social place of theatre and drama.
2. To analyse live performance and dramatic texts from a variety of critical approaches.
3. To develop an awareness of the implications of these critical approaches to contemporary theatrical practise.
4. To develop skills on close reading of plays in a critical context.
5. To develop research skills and clear critical writing about theoretical and dramaturgical issues of drama and theatre.
6. To develop skills and confidence in written and oral communication and presentation skills.
7. To develop an appreciation of how all creative practice is shaped by material, social, and ideological conditions that artists both determine and are determined by.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should be able to devote 300 hours 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

Essential Texts

1. Mark Fortier. *Theory/Theatre: An Introduction*. 2nd Ed. London: Routledge, 2002 - Available from Vic Books
2. Knowles, Richard. *Reading the Material Theatre*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006.

The **following plays** will be ordered at VicBooks, but you are welcome to use any editions of these plays:

3. Henry David Hwang, *M Butterfly*
4. Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannos*
5. Yves Racine, *Phedre*
6. Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
7. Maxim Gorky, *Summer Folk*
8. Alfred Jarry, *Ubu Roi*
9. Jean Betts, *Ophelia Thinks Harder*
10. Marcus Youssef, Guillermo Verdecchia & Camyar Chai, *The Adventures of Ali & Ali and the Axes of Evil*
11. Lora Parry, *Eugenia*
12. Albert Belz, *Awhi Tapu*
13. Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*

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 3 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.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment is internal.

Seminar Presentations	(2 x approx. 40 minutes) and handout (max. 4 sides of A4)	30%
Assignment 1	11 x 1 page (approx. 3000 words) responses to weekly readings (due bi-weekly, 28 March – 17 October)	35%
Assignment 2	3,500 word essay (due 5 October, 5pm)	35%

NB: All written assignments must be handed in electronically via Blackboard.

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.

Assignments will require students to demonstrate general expertise in **critical thinking** and **communication**, and particularly in the concepts and content covered in the course. Seminar presentations also have a **leadership** component. In addition, both written and oral assessments require you to make original connections between particular, concrete works of dramatic art and general, abstract critical theory, which involves **creative thinking**. Both the written and oral assignments, moreover, provide opportunities to practice and develop advanced skills in **research, information management**, and **oral and written communication**, which are both generally valuable and vital for professional success.

Note: 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.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found 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 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 and submit all assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- 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 (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:

8. Material from books, journals or any other printed source
9. The work of other students or staff
10. Information from the internet
11. Software programs and other electronic material
12. Designs and ideas
13. 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.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451

THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	7 March	Introduction/Classical Dramatic Theory	
Week 2			
Week 3	21 March	Pre-20th Century Dramatic Theory I: Classical to Neo-Classical	Journal Due <i>Phedre/Oedipos</i>
Week 4			
Week 5	4 April	Pre-20 th Century Dramatic Theory II: Romanticism & the Avant-Garde	Journal Due <i>Ubu Roi</i>
Mid-Trimester Break: 6 -22 April 2012			
Week 6			
Week 7	2 May	Semiotics & Formalism	Journal Due <i>Eugenia</i> , Fortier: 1-36.
Week 8			
Week 9	16 May	Theories of Actor Training	Journal Due <i>Summer Folk</i>
Week 10			
Week 11	30 May	Structuralism & Post-Structuralism	Journal Due <i>Hamlet</i> , Fortier: 58-81.
Week 12			
Mid-Year Break: Monday 5 July - Sunday 15 July 2012			
Week 13	18 July	Cultural Materialism	Journal Due <i>Harlem Duet</i> , Fortier: 151-172.
Week 14			
Week 15	1 Aug	Feminism, Gender, Queer Theory	Journal Due <i>Ophelia Thinks Harder</i> , Fortier 107-31.

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Week 16

Week 17	15 Aug	Intertextuality	Journal Due <i>M Butterfly</i> , Fortier 132-150.
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Week 18

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August – Sunday 9 September 2012

Week 19	12 Sept	Postcolonial Theory	Journal Due <i>Ali & Ali & the Axes of Evil</i> , F: 192-216.
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Week 20

Week 21	26 Sept	Postmodernism	Journal Due <i>Awhi Tapu</i> , F: 172-93.
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Week 22			Assignment 2 Due 5th October
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Week 23	17 Oct	Performance Theory	Journal Due TBA
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Week 24

Study week: 22 – 28 October 2012

Examination Period: 22 October – 18 November 2012

Note: This schedule is partial, subject to elaboration and change. There will be critical readings for each seminar, chosen by the presenters.