

# THEA 489 Research Project

**Trimester 1+2 2012**

**5 March to 17 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-trimester break 2/3:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 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:** Dr James McKinnon

Email: james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz Phone: 463 6115 Room: 306 77 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: By appointment. Supervisors: tbc

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

There are no classes for this course but students must organise and attend regular meetings with their supervisor, are required to be present at the following workshops and are expected to attend the Theatre Research Seminars.

### Workshops

Date	Time	Room Number	Workshop
Wed 7 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Introduction: Problem Finding
Wed 14 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Library and Database
Wed 21 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Writing Proposals
Wed 28 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Bibliographies, Endnote, Zotero
Wed 2 May	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Writing and Editing

Week 13, Trimester 2	TBC	Troubleshooting
Week 17, Trimester 2	TBC	Preparing Final Drafts

### **COURSE DELIVERY**

Students select a supervisor (or two co-supervisors) for their research project and will work with this supervisor to design a suitable course of study. There will also be a number of workshops and seminars that will provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

### **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

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 gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual project usually in the form of an extended essay, up to 10,000 words, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work may be included as part of a research project. A research project is a mandatory part of an Honours degree in Theatre. Students wishing to enrol for the BA (Hons) degree may consult with academic staff to discuss their areas of interest and must contact the Honours Co-ordinator with a brief outline of their intended topic, at least two weeks prior to the final date for enrolment. Students wishing to include practical work will also need to discuss the resource implications before they enrol. Note: assessment for THEA 489 research essays or projects may often be based wholly on the completed essay or project. Alternatively, individual supervisors may allocate a portion of the final grade for work completed at set milestones throughout the period of enrolment.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed project which addresses their own research question. Your research may be presented as extended essay and/ or creative/practical presentation – as determined by you and your supervisor. The project should be the equivalent of a 10,000 word paper. You will organise regular meetings with your supervisor(s) to discuss the focus of your research question, develop an appropriate methodology, and see your project through to final submission. You will conduct extensive research into your chosen topic, drawing on academic sources, such as scholarly books, book chapters, and articles from refereed journals. Your research and writing will enable you to develop an informed critical response to the topic, and use the results as the basis of a coherent, well-supported argument.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. acquire advanced research skills;
2. be able to identify relevant research questions (“problem finding,” a skill associated with **creative** ability);
3. be able to answer these questions within appropriate methodological frameworks (problem solving, a skill associated with **critical** ability);
4. develop **communication** skills required to present ideas using speech, writing, gesture, and visual presentation;
5. learn how to package and communicate their ideas for a variety of different contexts, including oral presentations, grant applications, and research proposals;
6. develop skills and attitudes required to conduct independent research (abilities associated with **leadership**);
7. gain experience and insight into the domain of advanced research.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the year.

## READINGS

Students will determine appropriate readings for their research project through their own research and through discussion with their supervisor.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The assessment for this course will be internal as well as moderated by an external examiner. Further information about assessment will be distributed during the course and placed on Blackboard.

Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification is made by the Honours programme examination committee.

The largest component of THEA489 is the individual research project that is developed and completed as a 10,000 word research essay in consultation with the supervisor. This is a theoretically informed piece of writing that should demonstrate that students are able to conceive and implement a project, to conceptualise and clarify a research question, and to cogently present the results of the inquiry. In order to accomplish the project students will be expected to meet a number of milestones and complete a compulsory presentation.

All “milestones” will be explained in detail in the THEA489 seminars.

### **Milestones**

- 1. Research proposal**, with outline, timetable, research question and methodology, including assessment breakdown if project contains a practical component. **Due March 30**
- 2. Annotated Bibliography**: A list of key research sources in your subject areas, with notes. **Due April 20**
- 3. Research seminar**: 10 minute presentation on research to date. **Due June 8**
- 4. Full first draft** **Due October 1**
- 5. Final Draft** **Due October 25**

### **Research Essay**

**Due Date: October 25**

#### Description:

In week 11 of Trimester 2, students must submit their THEA 489 essay. Guidelines will be provided about correct formatting and presentation of this work.

#### Assessment Criteria

- Fulfill the set task in clear, direct, relevant, complete and timely manner.
- Identify a clearly defined research question that forms the focus of your project.
- Sustain a coherent and logical argument that incorporates a critical reading of the independent research you have undertaken.
- Demonstrate a proficiency at textual analysis at an advanced level (where appropriate).
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your research paper.
- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.
- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources, in current MLA format.

#### The marking process

The marking process for a THEA489 research essay is: your essay will be read by your supervisor and a second reader appointed in consultation with the supervisor and the THEA489 coordinator. Each will mark the essay and write a report. Both reports may be forwarded to the external Honours moderator and a final grade is determined at the Honours Examiners’ Meeting.

#### Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enhance research and analytical skills, and the ability to sustain a persuasive argument. It will further develop written communication skills, as well as the capacity to present critical analysis of theatre and related areas.

## **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your supervisor'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.

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 the milestones and presentation as agreed with your supervisor
- 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)

## **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

A class representative will be elected at the beginning of Trimester 1, 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. 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>

#### WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

**COURSE PROGRAMME THEA 489**

Week 1 THEA 489 Introduction Meeting 12pm

Week 2 Seminar 2: Library and Database

Week 3 Seminar 3: Writing Proposals

Week 4 Seminar 4: Bibliography, Endnote, Zotero

Week 5

**Mid Trimester Break:** Friday 6 April to Sunday 22 April 2012

Week 6 Seminar 5

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

**Mid Year Break:** Thursday 5 July to Sunday 15 July 2012

Week 13 Seminar 6

Week 14

Week 15

Week 16

Week 17 Seminar 7

Week 18

**School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies**  
**THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 489**

**Mid Trimester Break:** Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012

Week 19

Week20

Week 21

Week 22

Week 23

Week 24