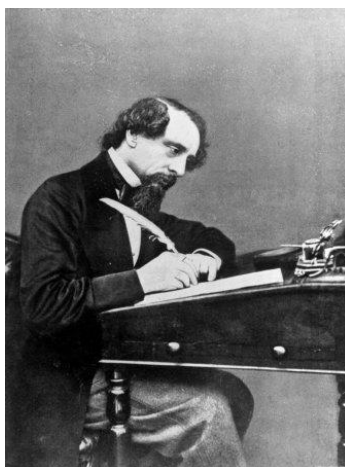


# THFI 312 Topic in Theatre and Film: Action, Scene and Sequence – Scoring the Performing Body

**Trimester 1 2012**

5 March to 4 July 2012

20 Points



## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 to 22 April 2012

Study week: 11 to 15 June 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

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	John Downie	<a href="mailto:john.downie@vuw.ac.nz">john.downie@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6826	FT85/Room 101
<b>Course Administrator</b>	Cathy McCullagh	<a href="mailto:cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz">cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 5359	FT83/Room 202

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Mondays and Wednesdays	3.10 – 6pm	FT77 Rm 305
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## COURSE DELIVERY

The two classes each week will alternate lecture material with a collaborative inter-active learning laboratory, with regular student participation.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional communication about the course will be available on the course notice boards (Theatre 77FT; Film 85FT), as well as by e-mail.

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 provides a grounding in dramaturgical principles and approaches to both the reading and the writing of scripts for live and media performance. The emphasis will be on defining understanding of narrative and collage forms, the role of scenography, and the possibilities provided to the performer.

## COURSE CONTENT

This course provides a practical and theoretical approach to writing scores and scripts for performance. It will proceed from the simple idea of performance instructions, through a growing consideration of elements that constitute 'performance' as an aesthetic event, to the dramatically complex matrix defined by bodies, objects, space, and time.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students successfully completing this course should be able to:

- a) Understand and apply some of the basic principles of dramaturgy, both generally in everyday life, and in the making of aesthetic performance.
- b) Have confidence to develop performance ideas as formal scores on paper, as theatre plays, film scripts, installation scores, and so on.
- c) Work with collaborators in performance processes in relation to dramaturgical principles.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours across the trimester. The classes are participatory throughout, and six hours attendance per week is expected. The remaining time will be spent developing and completing the four short creative assignments that are spread evenly through the length of the course. It should be noted here that a principle in the learning will be the idea of drafting, i.e., completing second/third versions of a creative assignment.

## GROUP WORK

The fourth assignment (five-fifteen minute script) will involve working within a small group outside of class times in order to develop a collective class presentation during the final two weeks of the course.

## READINGS

There are no set readings for this course. From time to time relevant documents will be distributed in class. A short list of recommended reading will be given during classes.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

There will be **FOUR** assessable assignments during this course:

Assignment 1. An original performance score-script (1xA4 page)	20%	DUE Wednesday 14 March
Assignment 2. A script for solo performance (max 3xA4 pages)	25%	DUE Wednesday 4 April
Assignment 3. A script in dialogue form (max 5xA4 pages)	25%	DUE Wednesday 9 May
Assignment 4. A performance script for any medium, between five and fifteen minutes. Group work 10%. Individual script 20%		DUE Wednesday 6 June

All assignments should be submitted electronically by email, WORD attachment, and will be returned by email, with comments and marks.

The marking criteria for all these assignments will be based on (1) the quality, imagination, and originality of the piece presented, and (2) the sense that each assignment conveys of elements of thought and craft that have been presented as components within the teaching.

## ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration Office in 83 Fairlie Terrace.

## 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:

- a) complete all the written assignments proposed.
- b) consistently attend the twice-weekly classes. Lecturer to be given prior notice of intended absence.

Medical certificate required for absence from two or more consecutive classes.

## 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](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).

**School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies**  
**THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THFI 312**

THFI 312 Course Programme

Week 1	5 March	Dreaming, writing, performing.	
	7 March	Marks and shapes on a page. Dramaturgy/Scenography.	
Week 2	12 March	How to Read a Script (examples).	
	14 March	How to Read a Script (Fuchs).	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE</u></b>
Week 3	19 March	Voice and Body/Song and Dance. Class writing and reading.	
	21 March	Voice and Body, draft 2. Expressivity, Language, Motion.	
Week 4	26 March	Space and Place.	
	28 March	Mise-en-scene.	
Week 5	2 April	Continuity and sequencing.	
	4 April	Solo, draft 3.	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE</u></b>
<b>Mid Trimester Break</b>	Friday 6 April – Sunday 22 April 2012		
Week 6	23 April	Narrativity/Montage	
	25 April	Anzac Day – Public Holiday	
Week 7	30 April	Dialogues; status, territory, agon.	
	2 May	Dialogues; rhythm, momentum, tempo, timbre.	
Week 8	7 May	Myth; never-ending story.	
	9 May	History; past, present, future.	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE</u></b>
Week 9	14 May	Art, artfulness, cunning, craft: aesthetics and models.	
	16 May	Me/Us. Predicament, audience, spectators.	
Week 10	21 May	Designing actions to time: the scale of a work.	
	23 May	Presentation Group projects 1	
Week 11	28 May	Presentation Group projects 2	
	30 May	Presentation Group projects 3	
Week 12	4 June	Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday	
	6 June	Presentation Group projects 4	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE</u></b>