

THEA 489 Research Project

Trimester 1 + 2 2013

4 March to 17 November 2013

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 18 October 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	22 to 28 April 2013
Mid-year break:	4 to 14 July 2013
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	26 August to 8 September 2013

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: 307 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; be present at the following workshops; and attend the Theatre Research Seminars.

All dates below to be confirmed.

Workshops

Date	Time	Room Number	Workshop
Wed 6 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Introduction: Problem Finding
Wed 13 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Library and Database
Wed 20 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Writing Proposals

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Wed 27 March	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Bibliographies, Endnote, Zotero
Wed 1 May	12-1pm	77 FT Rm 305	Writing and Editing
Week 13, Trimester 2		TBC	Troubleshooting
Week 17, Trimester 2		TBC	Preparing Final Drafts

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

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 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 of 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 – or an equivalent creative-based research project with a significant written component – in consultation with the supervisor. This is a theoretically informed research project 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 for written component:

1. **Research proposal**, with outline, timetable, research question and methodology, including assessment breakdown if project contains a practical component. **Due March 27**
2. **Annotated Bibliography:** A list of key research sources in your subject areas, with notes. **Due April 19**
3. **Research seminar: 10 minute presentation on research to date.** **Due July 15 (TBC)**
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 understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your project.
- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.
- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources, in current MLA format.
- The output may consist of a 10000 word essay, or a creative project with a written component (5000+ words, as agreed with your supervisor).

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.

SUBMISSION OF WORK

The Research Essay is submitted in two formats:

- 2 hardcopies in the drop slot outside the Administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace.
Attach an assignment cover sheet to your essay, found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to theatre@vuw.ac.nz

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)

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.

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>

TURNITIN

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

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 (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.

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COURSE PROGRAMME THEA 489

Week 1 6 March THEA 489 Introduction Meeting 12pm

Week 2 13 March Library and Database

Week 3 20 March Writing Proposals

Week 4 27 March Bibliography, Endnote, Zotero.

PROPOSALS DUE

EASTER BREAK Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013

Week 5 10 April Seminar 4: Bibliography, Endnote, Zotero

Week 6 17 April NO CLASS

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013

Week 7 1 May Writing and Editing

Week 8 8 May

Week 9 15 May

Week 10 22 May

Week 11 29 May

Week 12 5 June

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK Thursday 4 July to Sunday 14 July 2013

Week 13 17 July **Midterm Presentations**

Week 14 24 July

Week 15 31 July

Week 16 7 August

Week 17 14 August Preparing Final Drafts

Week 18 21 August

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MID-TRIMESTER BREAK Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013

Week 19	11 September	NO CLASS
Week 20	18 September	NO CLASS
Week 21	25 September	NO CLASS
Week 22	2 October	NO CLASS
Week 23	9 October	NO CLASS
Week 24	16 October	NO CLASS