

THEA 489 Research Project

Trimester 1 + 2 2015

2 March to 15 November 2015

30 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Teaching dates: | 2 March to 16 October 2015 |
| Easter/Mid-Trimester break: | 3 to 19 April 2015 |
| Mid-year break: | 2 to 12 July 2015 |
| Mid-trimester break 2/3: | 24 August to 6 September 2015 |
| Last assessment item due: | 9 October 2015 |

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

There are no classes for this course.

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 |

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.

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.

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.

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 Coordinator 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 LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. acquire advanced research skills;
2. identify relevant research questions (“problem finding,” a skill associated with **creative** ability);
3. 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.

TEACHING FORMAT

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.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- complete the milestones 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)

WORKLOAD

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

ASSESSMENT

| Assessment items and workload per item | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|-----|--------|--------------|
| 1 See below. | 100 | 1-7 | 29 September |

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.

The largest component of THEA 489 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. The 489 Research Project is broken down into the following components, the precise characteristics of which (e.g. word count) are subject to negotiation with your supervisor:

1. **Research proposal (10%)**, with outline, timetable, research question and methodology, including assessment breakdown if project contains a practical component.

Due 27 March

2. **Annotated Bibliography (5%):** A list of key research sources in your subject areas, with notes.

Due 20 April

3. **“First Chapter” (15%):** A section of writing representing your research and findings to date (approx. 1500 – 2500 words)

Due 15 July (TBC)

4. **Full first draft**

Due 17 September

5. **Final Draft (70%)***

Due 29 September

** In the case of a creative-based research project, it may be appropriate to adjust this marking breakdown to reflect assessment of the creative component. This should be negotiated in advance with the supervisor.*

Assessment Criteria

- Fulfil 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 documented (e.g., on DVD) creative project with a written component (5000+ words, as agreed with your supervisor).

The marking process

The marking process for a THEA 489 research essay is: your essay will be read by your supervisor and a second reader appointed in consultation with the supervisor and the THEA 489 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.

Please note: 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 made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

For Honours assignments

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to theatre@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 2015.**

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.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract

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

- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms