

THEA 403: Drama and Theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

Trimester 1 2016

29 February to 29 June 2016

30 Points



Image: Black Grace 'Siva' (2015) <http://www.blackgrace.co.nz/productions/2015-twenty-years>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 13 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesdays 10am – 12.50pm FT77 208

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Nicola Hyland nicola.hyland@vuw.ac.nz 463 6826 FT77 302

Office Hours: By appointment

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or changes will be announced in class and/or posted on the course notice board at FT77, Level 3, and/or 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 explores the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand by studying a range of play-scripts from the colonial era to the present day, through the lens of post-colonial theory. Topics include the evolution of nationalist drama, the growth of professional theatre and playwriting, the development of Māori and Pasifika theatre, and contemporary trends towards inter-cultural and devised theatre.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will offer selected topics in the theatre and performance of Aotearoa New Zealand. A range of plays will be studied in relation to historical and contemporary theatre conventions, as well as from the point of view of a variety of critical approaches including colonial, nationalist, post-colonial, and feminist. Attention will be paid to Māori theatrical and paratheatrical forms and to contemporary developments in hybrid performance and cross-cultural theatre. In this course, students will each present a creative, hypothetical 'pitch' to re-stage a New Zealand theatre production. Students will also be introduced to the concept of practice-as-research and given an opportunity to develop these skills in presenting and responding to a short performance project. All students should prepare for each class by reading the relevant play and any critical readings set for that session.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. distinguish, critique and synthesise a variety of genres and styles in the drama and theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

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2. investigate and explain the social functions, cultural politics, aesthetic elements and historical contexts of New Zealand drama and theatre
3. recognise the influence of European, indigenous and diasporic performance modes on the development of New Zealand drama and theatre
4. create, design and produce a short live performance of New Zealand theatre
5. practise a range of creative and critical approaches to inquiry and scholarship, significantly practice-as-research methodologies

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will be delivered through weekly 3-hour seminars, involving discussion, viewings, group work and creative presentations.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Presentation 'Pitch' (40 – 50 minute presentation and discussion) (Approximately 20 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	25%	1, 2, 3, 5	As arranged with Course Co-ordinator to be complete on or before 10 May
2	Research Essay (3,000 words) (10% Draft, 25 % Final) (Approximately 50 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	35%	1, 2, 3	Draft 1: Monday 2 May, 12 pm Final Draft: Monday 13 June, 12 pm
3	Practice-Based Performance Project (10 minute performance during Week 13 (20%) plus written report 1,000 words (15%) plus micro-seminar Week 6 (5%)) (Approx 100 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	40%	1, 4, 5	Performance: Week 13 [TBC],

				Report: Friday 3 June
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All assessment in this course is internal.

Further details on these assignments and marking criteria will be available early in the course.

Relationship between Assessment and Graduate 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 a **specialised understanding** of the field of New Zealand theatre and drama, along with more general expertise in **critical thinking** through analysing content and concepts covered in the course. In addition, the written, oral and performance assessments require students to make original connections between particular, concrete works of dramatic art and general, abstract critical theory, which involves **creative thinking**. The flexibility and creative licence of the performative assessments challenges students to **demonstrate intellectual autonomy through independence of thought** while also showing **openness to ideas** within group activities and general discussions. Both the written and oral assignments, moreover, provide opportunities to practice and develop advanced skills in **communicating complex ideas effectively and accurately**, which is generally valuable and vital for professional success. This course acknowledges the significance of Te Tiriti o Te Waitangi and is committed to encouraging and maintaining **intellectual integrity** and promoting excellent scholarly **ethics**.

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

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

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 Wednesday 29 June 2016**

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.

SET TEXTS

Fraser, Toa. *Two Plays: Bare/No.2*. Playmarket, 2007;

Leitch, George. *Land of the Moa*. Victoria University Press, 1990* (Provided in class);

McGee, Greg. *Foreskin's Lament*. Victoria University Press, 1981;

Mason, Bruce. *Awatea*. Victoria University Press, 1978* (Provided in class);

O'Donnell, David (ed.). *No. 8 Wire: 8 Plays 8 Decades*. Playmarket, 2011;

O'Donnell, David (ed.), *Here/Now: 8 Plays by Award-Winning NZ Playwrights*, Playmarket, 2015.

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.

RECOMMENDED READING

Please find a list of recommended reading materials for this course included on course Blackboard.

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

Student feedback on this course in 2014 and 2015 has led to slight changes in assessment, course texts and dissemination of reading materials. 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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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

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THEA 403 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 **1 March** **Kia ora!** In which we are introduced to THEA 403

Week 2 **8 March** **The Colonial Spectacle:** *The Land of the Moa*

Week 3 **15 March** **No.8 Wire New Zealanders:** *The Willing Horse and Rabbits*

Week 4 **22 March** **Nation and Alienation:** *Awatea*

Easter Break: *Thursday 24 to Wednesday 30 March*

Week 5 **No Lectures**

Week 6 **5 April** **Of Myth and Men:** *Foreskin's Lament* **Micro Seminars in Class 10 am**

Week 7 **12 April** **Ladies, a plate:** *Indiscretions*

Week 8 **19 April** **Tangata Whenua Whakaari:** *Manawa*

Mid-trimester Break: *Monday 25 April to Sunday 1 May*

Week 9 **3 May** **Pasifika Voices: No.2** **Essay Draft 1 Due 2 May 12 pm**

Week 10 **10 May** **Devising Lives – SeeYD**

Week 11 **17 May** **From Poi to Polyswagg:** Dance and Physical Performance in Aotearoa

Week 12 **24 May** **Young Bright Hot Things:** *Riding in Cars with Mostly Straight Boys/The Intricate Art of Actually Caring*

Week 13 **31 May** **PERFORMANCE PROJECTS!** **Report Due 3 June**
Essay Final Draft due 13 June