

## **THEA 207 (CRN 13115) / ENGL 221 (CRN 13121) CLASSIC THEATRE**

### **Co-ordinator and teaching staff**

Course co-ordinator is Megan Evans  
(77 Fairlie Terrace, 302; ph 463 9793).

Office hours posted on door.

Email: [megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz)

Lecturing will be shared by David Carnegie  
(77FT/308, ext. 6825) and Matt Wagner  
(77FT/310, ext 6712).

Tutors will be David Lawrence

<[david@thebacchanals.net](mailto:david@thebacchanals.net)>

& Ryan Hartigan

<[ryan.hartigan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ryan.hartigan@vuw.ac.nz)>

### **Class times and venue**

2/3. Lectures: Mon and Wed, 2.10–3.00pm  
(77FT/306) plus one two-hour seminar (Thur 10-  
11:50am in 77FT/305).

### **Communication**

Note that any additional information or changes  
will be announced in class and/or posted on  
Blackboard and the course notice board at 77FT  
level 3. Please check notice locations regularly.

### **Course aims and content**

This course provides a critical and practical study of the dynamics of performing plays from  
four major periods of Western drama: Elizabethan, Neoclassical, Expressionist and Greek.  
Investigation of historical conditions of performance will form the basis for seminar discussion  
and analysis of performed scenes from selected plays.

### **Course objectives**

By the end of the course students should:

- be conversant with the principal features of theatrical style, convention, and place in  
society of four periods of Western theatre history;
- be aware of the performance possibilities of selected plays;
- have a secure grounding in the dramaturgy of four theatrical traditions.

### **Required Texts**

*The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*, ed. W. B. Worthen, 4th ed (Boston, 2004).

*History of the Theatre*, Oscar G. Brockett, 9th ed (Boston, 2004).

Course Reader (available from Student Notes)

including *Masses and Man* by Ernst Toller and *The Frogs* by Aristophanes

### **Assessment**

This course is internally assessed, with assessment comprising four assignments:

1. 1500 word dramaturgical report: due **Wed 1 Aug**, 5pm 25%
2. in-class test: **Thur 20 September**, 10-10.50am 15%

3. 2500 word essay: **Fri 12 October**, 4pm 40%  
4. seminar presentation: dates to be announced 20%  
Further details on these assignments will be available early in the trimester.

### **Extensions and Absolute Deadlines**

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate) work handed in late will lose a grade (e.g. drop from B+ to B, etc.) for each day or part day late, starting from the hour the work is due. Work submitted more than a week late without an extension may not be marked. Requests for extensions (which will not be given lightly) must be made well before the due date, in writing, attaching any relevant documentation, and must be signed by the course co-ordinator and attached to the report when submitted. Comments on late work will be minimal. **If you fail to hand in work before the one-week deadline, you may be considered as having failed to meet the mandatory course requirements and therefore fail the course.** Extensions will not be granted beyond Fri 19 October, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period.

**Aegrotat** provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. The Aegrotat procedures are listed in Section 6 of the Examination Statute in the *University Calendar*. In such a case you should also contact the course co-ordinator.

### **Relationship between assessment and course objectives**

The **dramaturgical report** allows a close analysis of how the dramaturgical strategies employed in *The Tempest* function in performance. The **in-class test** provides an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the texts and theatrical conventions of several periods studied. The **essay** allows students to demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual and social environment within which theatrical conventions of periods studied have their meaning. The **seminar presentation** encourages research into the production history of a particular text, or a closer examination of specific aspects of a theatrical movement.

### **Workload**

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 15 hours per week to a 22 point course at 200 level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 11 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and writing your assignments. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In order to pass this course you must:

- Attend at least 10 out of the 12 tutorials.
- Complete all assignments.

### **General University Policies and Statutes**

Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or go to:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy)

For information on the following topics, see the course Blackboard page under "Course Documents" in the file labeled "General University Policies and Statutes":

Academic Grievances  
Academic Integrity and Plagiarism  
Student and Staff Conduct

## Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments Student Support

### **Theatre Facilities**

There are standard requirements regarding conduct within 77 FT, 93 KP and 225 Aro St:

### **Smoking**

**Smoking is not permitted.** Please smoke outside and dispose cigarette ends in the ashtray provided outside the main door at 77 FT.

### **Food**

Food and beverages (with the exception of water) **may only be consumed in the Green Room.** There is strictly no food allowed in the studio theatre, dressing room, film room, library, foyer area, and 93 KP or 225 Aro St (except kitchen area). Strictly no food or drink in the AV suite. Alcoholic drinks are not to be brought onto the premises unless authorised.

### **Green Room**

The Green Room is available to students working in the Theatre Programme. **You are expected to clean up after yourselves** (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Room and operating the dishwasher).

### **Library**

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace; however, please note that **books and other materials do not leave the building.** Please return books to shelves before you leave the library. There is also a small theatre video collection in the cupboard in the seminar room, for viewing within the building.

| <b>WK</b> | <b>LECTURE</b><br><i>Mon 2.10-3</i><br><i>77 FT/ Rm 306</i>                                  | <b>LECTURE</b><br><i>Wed 2.10-3</i><br><i>77 FT/ Rm 306</i>                        | <b>SEMINAR</b><br><i>Thur 10-11:50</i><br><i>77 FT/ Rm 305</i>                                   | <b>READING</b>  |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| 1         | 9 July<br>Intro/Elizn Staging  | 11 July<br>Elizn Dramaturgy  | <i>Tempest</i>   | <i>Tempest &amp;</i><br>Worthen 199-223                                     |
| 2         | 16 July<br><i>The Tempest</i> text anal.   | 18 July<br><i>Tempest</i> text analysis  | <i>Tempest</i>   | Brockett chap 5   |
| 3         | 23 July<br><i>The Tempest</i> in performance<br><b>(Tues eve dress rehearsal)</b>            | 25 July<br>Presentation of<br><i>Tempest</i> scenes<br><b>STUDIO 77</b>            | <i>Tempest</i>   | Read <i>Tartuffe</i> for<br>next week                                       |
| 4         | 30 July<br>Discussion of <i>The Tempest</i> ;<br>Intro to Neoclassical comedy<br>and Molière | 1 Aug<br>Neoclassical Staging  | <i>Tartuffe</i><br><b>DUE Wed 1</b><br><b>Aug, 5pm:</b><br><b>Dramaturgical</b><br><b>Report</b> | Worthen 373-77,<br>382-86, 523-25   |
| 5         | 6 Aug<br>Commedia dell'Arte and<br><i>Tartuffe</i>   | 8 Aug<br><i>Tartuffe</i> text analysis   | <i>Tartuffe</i>  | Brockett chap 8;<br>see also pp.  |
| 6         | 13 Aug<br><i>Tartuffe</i> in performance<br><b>(Tues eve dress rehearsal)</b>                | 15 Aug<br>Presentation of<br><i>Tartuffe</i> scenes<br><b>93 KP</b>                | <i>Tartuffe</i>  | Read <i>Masses and</i><br><i>Man</i> (Course<br>Reader) for next<br>session |
|           | Mid-Trimester BREAK  |  |  |   |
| 7         | 3 Sept<br>Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> ;<br>Intro to Expressionism and<br>Toller            | 5 Sept<br>Expressionism design<br>and stagecraft                                   | <i>Masses and Man</i>  | Brockett 432-438,<br>449-451  |
| 8         | 10 Sept<br><i>Masses and Man</i><br>text analysis  | 12 Sept<br><i>Masses and Man</i><br>text analysis                                  | <i>Masses and Man</i>  | Nothing assigned,<br>do some of your<br>own research                        |
| 9         | 17 Sept<br><i>Masses and Man</i> in<br>performance<br><b>(Tues eve dress rehearsal)</b>      | 19 Sept<br>Presentation of<br><i>Masses and Man</i><br>scenes <b>93 KP</b>         | <i>Masses and Man</i><br><b>In-class Test</b><br><b>10-10:50</b>                                 | Read <i>The Frogs</i> for<br>next week                                      |
| 10        | 24 Sept<br>Discussion of <i>Masses and</i><br><i>Man</i> ; Intro to Greek Comedy             | 26 Sept<br>Classical festivals and<br>staging                                      | <i>The Frogs</i>   | Brockett chap 2   |
| 11        | 1 Oct<br><i>The Frogs</i> text anal.   | 3 Oct<br><i>The Frogs</i> text anal.   | <i>The Frogs</i>   | Worthen 9-22, 97-<br>105  |
| *12       | 8 Oct<br><i>The Frogs</i> in performance<br><b>(Tues eve dress rehearsal)</b>                | 10 Oct<br>Presentation of <i>The</i><br><i>Frogs</i> scenes<br><b>Amphitheatre</b> | <i>The Frogs</i>   | Fri 13 Oct 4pm:<br>Spring finale—end<br>of year party                       |
|           | <b>DUE Fri 13 Oct, 4pm: Final Essay</b>  |  |  |   |