

THEA 302

CONVENTIONS OF DRAMA AND THEATRE

(JACOBAN CITY COMEDY)

CRN 9149

Co-ordinator

David Carnegie: 77FT/308; ext 8611;
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on door.

Class times and venue

First trimester. Monday 3.10–6pm and Thursday
10am–12.50pm. Initially in Room 209, 77FT;
subsequently 225 Aro St. Note that any
additional information or changes will be
announced in class and/or posted on the course
notice board at 77FT level 3.

Course aims and objectives

The course will investigate the conditions of performance in English public, private and court playhouses between 1576 and 1642 and the dramaturgy of selected plays written for those conditions, with special emphasis on 'City comedies'. By the end of the course students should be familiar with the principal theatrical influences on dramatic writing, able to analyse the dramaturgy of plays of the period, and able to apply knowledge of practical stagecraft to critical problems.

A full workshop production of *Northward Ho*, by John Webster and Thomas Dekker, directed by David Carnegie and David Lawrence, will go into rehearsal almost immediately, to be presented 14–17 May; this will be the basis for major practical and dramaturgical projects.

Assessment

Class report (small group) on playwright (details tba; dates on timetable)	20%
2,500 word essay (due Mon 28 April, 3pm)	25%
Production work and 500-word critique (due Thur 22 May, 10am)	30%
Production dramaturgy project, 1500 words or equiv. (due Thur 29 May, 10am)	25%

Essays, preferably typed, should follow the *Guidelines for SEFT Students* style sheet.

Theatre Programme Extensions Policy

If you wish to ask for an extension (e.g., because of pressure of work) please do so well before the due date. Extension requests on the day the assignment is due will not normally be accepted.

Requests for extensions must be made in writing, by filling out the extension form [available on your course Blackboard site] and getting your Course Co-ordinator to sign it. Only Course Co-ordinators may grant extension, not tutors. The signed Extension form must be attached to the assignment when it is submitted, plus any relevant documentation. If circumstances prevent you from accessing the extension form, you must attach an email from the Course Co-ordinator, which confirms that an extension has been granted, to your assignment. In real emergencies we can of course be flexible, but the most important thing is for you to somehow let us know as soon as possible.

Extensions will not be granted beyond 30 May, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period (25 June for Trimester 1, 2008).

Work submitted late without an extension will be considered, as long as it is received within two weeks of the due date. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate) work handed in late will normally lose a grade (i.e. drop from B+ to B, etc) for each day or part day late, starting from the hour the work is due. Comments on late work will be minimal. Note: if you fail to hand in work before this two week deadline, you may be considered as having failed to meet a mandatory requirement and therefore fail the course.

Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. The Aegrotat procedures are listed in *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

In such a case you should also contact the course co-ordinator. There is a university policy on reasonable accommodation with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see *Calendar* as above).

Relationship Between Assessment and Objectives

The report on a playwright will allow you, as part of a small group, to undertake research and analysis of the life and work of one of the five playwrights the course focuses on, and to develop the material into an informative in-class presentation. The first essay will allow you to do research into English Renaissance performance conditions, and to apply that research to several plays being studied. The production critique, taken together with your practical work, will assess your creative, practical and intellectual engagement with the play in performance. The second essay or project will be built around the practical production work on *Northward Ho*, and allow practical and creative experience to be brought to bear on understanding the play.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In order to pass the course, a high standard of attendance (at least 80% at class, and 100% at rehearsals) and completion of all assignments is required as well as an overall passing grade.

Workload

The 36 points assigned for this course recognizes that the production workload is heavy. The university usually anticipates that you should be able to devote about 16 hours per week to a 24 point course at 300 level. For a 36-point course, therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 18 hours per week (in addition to the 6 hours' class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more. Rehearsal will then add considerably to the time commitment.

Texts

John Webster and Thomas Dekker	<i>Westward Ho</i> and <i>Northward Ho</i> , in THEA 302 course reader (available from Student Notes)
James Knowles, ed.	<i>Roaring Girl and Other City Comedies</i> (Oxford: OUP, 2001)
Recommended: Gurr, Andrew,	<i>The Shakespearean Stage 1574-1642</i> (3rd ed., Cambridge: CUP, 1992) (not in Vic Books; on closed reserve at VUW Library, call number PN2589 G981 S 3ed, or from David Carnegie).

Other readings may be made available from time to time.

Library and Green Room

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace; however, please note that **library materials do not leave the building**. The Green Room is also available to students in the Theatre Programme. You **are** expected to clean up after yourselves (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Room). No food or beverage is allowed in the Library.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise 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 hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support
- Plagiarism

This information can also be found on the course Blackboard site under the Course Resources tab.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

THEATRE PROGRAMME FACILITIES

There are standard requirements regarding 77 FT, 83 FT, 85 FT, 93 KP and 225 Aro St:

Smoking

Due to NZ law changes smoking is not permitted anywhere on Theatre premises or within 3 metres of surrounding buildings. **Please smoke elsewhere and dispose of cigarette butts thoughtfully.**

Food

Food may only be consumed in the 77FT Green Room, and 85FT, 93KP and Aro St kitchen areas.

No beverages (with the exception of bottled water) are allowed in the studio theatre, dressing room, film room, library, foyer area, and 93 KP or 225 Aro St and 85FT (except kitchen areas listed above).

Student and staff using kitchen areas are strongly expected to clean up after themselves.

Strictly no food or drink in the 85FT Digital Edit Suites.

Alcoholic drinks are not to be brought onto the premises unless authorised by Programme Director Film or Programme Director Theatre

Green Room

The Green Room is available to students working in the Film and Theatre Programmes. **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 department materials do not leave the building**. Please return books to shelves before you leave the library. Please do be aware that the library is doubling as an editing suite for some production courses, and that editing facilities are not to be touched unless you have made a booking with the Theatre Administrator [room 307, 77FT , Telephone: 463 5359]. Please remember that the Library is a quiet study area.

End of Class

Rooms 306 (lecture theatre), 305, 205 (film room), 209 (seminar room), studios, studio foyer, 93 KP, 83 FT and 225 Aro St **must have the desks and chairs returned to order for any following classes or rehearsals.**

Lockers

Lockers are available to majoring drama students on Level 0 77FT. There are only 52 so once they run out those with double lockers will have to consider sharing. Students provide their own lock and key. See the Administrator in room 307. Access your lockers via back stairs through Green Room. Please make sure the door to the main stairwell remains shut. Access to lockers will not be available during the trimester break so please take everything with you at the end of this trimester and inform the Administrator if you are not taking a theatre subject next trimester.

Theatre Rules

There are more specific rules regarding safety and security within the premises occupied by Film and Theatre. Please note them as posted up around the building and as listed in the FAT Book. This document is available on all Theatre course Blackboard sites.

Pin Boards

Students are welcome to use the pin boards located on level 3 of 77 Fairlie Terrace but you must get the poster/flyer date stamped by the Administrator and take responsibility for removing it again once the information is no longer valid. This is limited to one poster/flyer per event. **Items that appear without the approval stamp may be removed without notice.**

THEA 302 Teaching schedule 2008

W k	CLASS (Mon 3.10–6pm)	CLASS (Thurs 10am–12.50pm)	NOTES
1	25 February Intro; <i>Northward Ho</i>	28 <i>NHo</i>	Read <i>NHo</i> and Intro to set plays volume
2	3 March <i>NHo</i>	6 RSC language; <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>	
3	10 Public stages and companies; <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>	13 <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>	
4	17 Private stages and boys' companies; <i>Westward Ho</i>	20 Report on Webster; <i>WHo</i>	
5	24 EASTER MON VUW CLOSED	27 Report on Chapman; <i>Eastward Ho</i>	
6	31 Report on Jonson; <i>EHo</i>	3 April Report on Dekker; <i>Roaring Girl</i>	
7	7 Wai-te-ata Press	10 Report on Middleton: <i>Roaring Girl</i>	
	Mid-Trimester Break (rehearsing week of 21 April)		
8	28 April <i>NHo</i> workshop	1 May <i>NHo</i> workshop	Note: 203 workshop 4/5 May
9	5 <i>NHo</i> workshop	8 <i>NHo</i> workshop	
10	12 <i>NHo</i> workshop	15 NO CLASS	Production of <i>Northward</i> 14–17 May 7.30pm, Studio 77
11	19 Humours theory: <i>Every Man in his Humour</i>	22 <i>NHo</i> debrief	
12	26 <i>EMIHH</i>	29 Finale: <i>The Alchemist</i>	Project due Thursday 29 May by 10am