

## **THEA 303**

# **COMPOSITION, PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE**

**CRN 9150**

### **Staff**

Course co-ordinator is Bronwyn Tweddle (77FT, Room 301; ext 6852.

Email: Bronwyn.Tweddle@vuw.ac.nz). Office hours will be posted on office door. Classes will be taught predominantly by Bronwyn Tweddle, with select classes by guest lecturers. The theatre technicians is James Davenport and Horst Sarubin (Room 203, 77FT; ext. 6842)

### **Class times and venue**

First trimester. Monday 3.10 – 6.00pm and Thursdays 10.00am – 12.50pm.

Until Easter, classes will be in the theatre, Studio 77, room 102 (77FT). After Easter classes will be held in the rehearsal studio in 83FT.

### **Additional information**

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and/or posted on the Theatre noticeboard on level three, 77 FT, and/or posted on Blackboard system. It is the students' responsibility to regularly check the noticeboards, Blackboard and their email.

I will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours.

### **Course content**

A critical and practical study of the process of collaborative production work in theatre, leading to the creation and public presentation of original work. In 2008, the focus will be on ensemble

improvisation work, based upon the Viewpoints and Composition practice of Anne Bogart, as well as other physical training techniques. Please note: while this course will not have a full production, there will be a performance season of an 'Improvisation Jam' in week 11 of the trimester. This may necessitate some rehearsal hours outside of class time.

### Course aims

- To develop skills in working as a member of an ensemble
- To deepen understanding of the Viewpoints principles [introduced in THEA 203] to an advanced level and to introduce Composition
- To increase students' ability to observe, critique and articulate their theatre practice

### Course objectives

By the end of the course students should:

- have improved their observation skills and refined their personal theatre aesthetic
- have increased their practical theatre skills, especially in improvisation and ensemble work
- have further developed their research skills

### Required Texts

Anne Bogart and Tina Landau, *The Viewpoints Book* (Theatre Communications Group, 2005)

### Recommended texts

Eugenio Barba and Nicola Savarese, *The Secret Art of the Performer – A Dictionary of Theatre Anthropology* (Routledge, 1991)

### Assessment

1. *Workbook*. Due Friday 6 June, 5pm 40%
2. *Contribution mark*: the following will be taken into account 30%
  - Attendance (a roll will be taken) and contribution to class
  - Ability to work collaboratively with others
  - Completion of required preparation work for classes: which will be handed in and given feedback

Please note that technical staff and/or guest teachers may contribute comments which will affect this contribution mark.

3. *Essay on a personal research question*. 2500 words. Due Friday 2 May, 5pm 30%

Students should also wear comfortable clothing, which allows extended movement, to all classes and rehearsals. Jeans and hipster pants are not permitted as they do not allow the degree of flexibility required and can cause injury if worn for the physical work we will be undertaking.

Class/rehearsal protocol:

- Cell phones are to be turned off during classes and rehearsals
- Lateness to class or rehearsal will be noted and affect your contribution mark

### Notes:

- 1) The essay is to be presented in accordance with the style required in *Guidelines for SEFT Students: Minimum Standards for Presentation of Essays* (available from Student Notes). Please note that Theatre and English students must now reference their assignments using the MLA style. [Further details on Blackboard]
- 2) If you wish to ask for an extension for assignments, see extensions policy below.

### **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 6 June 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](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**

In addition to developing research skills, the *essay* encourages a critical engagement with the principles of performance explored in class and encourages the development of a personal theatre aesthetic.

The *workbook* allows a documentation of personal explorations and development of critical thinking about the methods explored in class and the student's own developing skills .

The *contribution mark* allows for your ability to contribute to the ensemble to be evaluated and acknowledged. It also reflects your professionalism and contribution in terms of attentiveness, imagination, commitment and attendance in both classroom work, and the preparatory exercises for it.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

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

### **Workload**

The 36 points assigned for this course recognizes that the workload is heavy. The university usually anticipates that you should be able to devote about 27 hours per week to a 36 point course at 300 level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 21 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking, and writing. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some will find they need or want to do more. Time commitment will peak at the week 11 “improv jam” – where attendance at night will be necessary - so students should arrange other work due (including that of other papers) with this in mind.

### **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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

<[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](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>

<<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.

# THEATRE PROGRAMME FACILITIES

There are standard requirements regarding conduct within 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 our administrator, Jo Bean [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. These are unlikely to be relevant to this course as they are largely to do with practical work and use of the theatre, but 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.**

## 2008 TEACHING SCHEDULE: THEA 303

WK	MON 3.10-6	THURS 10- 12.50	ASSESSMENT
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1.	25 February Introduction/Ensemble	28 February Dance Notation	
2.	3 March Architecture	6 March Spatial Relationships	
3.	10 March Kinaesthetic response	13 March Tempo	
4.	17 March Shape	20 March Gesture	
5.	24 March NO CLASS EASTER MONDAY	27 March Floor pattern	
6.	31 March Repetition	3 April Duration	
7.	7 April  Major/minor	10 April  Working with music	
MIDTRIMESTER BREAK: 12 APRIL – 27 APRIL			
8.	28 April Theme	1 May Vocal viewpoints	<b>Friday 2 May</b> Research essay due
9.	5 May Composition	8 May Composition	
10.	12 May Lifting/falling	15 May Long-play impro	
11.	19 May  Long-play impro	22 May  Viewpoints in rehearsal	<b>Wed 21–Sat 24 May</b>  Improv Jam showings
12.	26 May Other training systems	29 May Final conclusions	<b>Friday 6 June</b> Workbook Due