



Hugo Ball, Dada Performance
Zurich, 1917

To launch a manifesto you have to want: A, B, & C, and fulminate against 1, 2, & 3...I'm writing a manifesto and there's nothing I want, and yet I'm saying certain things, and in principle I am against manifestoes, as I am against principles...

-- Tristan Tzara, 'Dada Manifesto'

THEA 206/306, ENGL 242/342

DRAMA AND DRAMATURGY

Dramaturgy of the Avant-Garde

CRN 13116 (THEA 206)/CRN 13113 (THEA 306), CRN 13108 (ENGL 242)/13106 (ENGL 342)

Teaching staff

Course co-ordinator is Matt Wagner (Room 310, 77 Fairlie Terrace; Tel: 463 6712. email: Matthew.Wagner@vuw.ac.nz). The tutor for the paper is Rachel Lenart (Room 912, Von Zedlitz; Tel: 463 6856; email: rachel.j.lenart@gmail.com). Both Matt's and Rachel's office hours are by appointment.

Class times and venue

Second Trimester. Lectures: Tues, Fri. 1.10—2.00 pm, 77 Fairlie Terrace, Room 306.

Seminars:

- Tues 3:10-5:00 (Room TBA)
- Weds
 - 10:00-11:50, Room 305 77FT
 - 1:10-3:00, Room 305 77FT
- Thurs
 - 10:00-11:50, Room 305 77FT
 - 1:10-3:00, Room 305 77FT

Allocation to seminar groups will be done during the first week, and posted on Theatre notice boards. Seminars begin in *Week 2*.

Please note that any additional information or changes will be announced in class, posted on the course notice board at 77FT level 3, or sent by email (so it is **essential** that students get an email address and check it regularly).

Please also note that as cell phones are no longer avant-garde, they are to be turned off and/or chucked out the window in both classes and seminars.

Course aims

This course aims to develop (or further) students' understanding of dramaturgy as a vital function of the theatre; it also aims to deepen students' engagement with the widely varying ideas, ideals, and conventions of the theatrical avant-garde, and to broaden their exposure to the theoretical and dramatic literature of the avant-garde.

Course objectives

Through this course, students will:

- Develop a sense of what dramaturgy is and what the specific labours of dramaturgy entail;
- Explore the different dramaturgical labours demanded by varying modes of the theatrical avant-garde;
- Read a range of avant-garde drama, and analyse these texts dramaturgically;
- Read a body of critical essays on dramaturgy that corresponds to the study of the avant-garde;
- Analyse one selected avant-garde play in depth from a dramaturgical perspective;
- Refine their skills in critical writing about theatre.

Set Texts

- THEA 206/306, ENGL 242/342 reader, available at Student Notes
- Texts available at Student Book Store:
 - Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
 - Jarry, *The Ubu Plays*
 - Cocteau, *The Eiffel Tower Wedding Party* in *The Infernal Machine*
 - Parks, *The America Play*
- Available in class:
 - Rachilde, *The Crystal Spider*
 - Maeterlinck, *The Intruder*
- Articles Available online:
 - Rudakoff, Judith. "The Four Elements." Available at http://helicon.vuw.ac.nz:3830/journals/theatre_topics/v013/13.1rudakoff.html
 - Proehl, Geoff. "Rehearsing Dramaturgy: Olivia's Moment". Available at: http://helicon.vuw.ac.nz:3830/journals/theatre_topics/v009/9.2proehl.html

Assessment

All assessment is internal.

- Dramaturgical Notes on each play studied (1-2 pages *maximum*), worth 35% of the grade. Notes for *Godot* are **due 18 July**; notes for *Crystal Spider*, *The Intruder*, and *Ubu Roi* are **due 1 August**; notes for *Wedding Party* and *America Play* are **due 15 August**. You are not required to hand in notes for Week 10 (Devising and Wooster Group).
- Dramaturgical Workbook (to include a practical and a written component), worth 30% of the grade, **due 5 September**. Please note that this early due date makes it more difficult to work on the topics to be covered in weeks 5 and 6 – if you think you might be interested in these particular topics, *you must see your tutor before the end of the 3rd week of classes*.
- Critical Essay (2000 Words for 200 level; 3000 words for 300 level), worth 35% of the grade. The essay is **due 10 October**.

In addition to the higher word count on the essay for 300-level students, please remember that all 300-level work will be marked at an appropriately higher standard.

Further details and guidelines for each assignment will be given out in class.

Relationship Between Assessment and 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.

- The Dramaturgical Notes will allow students to keep a record of their survey of dramatic literature, and they will help facilitate thinking 'dramaturgically' about those plays.
- The project will provide students a sense of, and practical experience in, the dramaturgical labours we will be discussing through the semester.
- The critical essay will further students' writing skills, and allow the opportunity for an in-depth articulation of the field of dramaturgy and of the dramaturgy of a particular play.

Extensions and Absolute Deadlines

If you wish to ask for an extension (e.g., because of pressure of work) please do so well before the due date. Requests for extensions must be made in writing, attaching any relevant documentation, and must be signed by the Course Convener and attached to the essay when submitted. Extensions will not be granted beyond 10 October, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period.

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 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. 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 Section 6 of the Examination Statute in the University *Calendar*. 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 below).

Class preparation

All students should prepare for each class by reading the relevant play/readings set for that session, and by preparing their dramaturgical notes for the play(s). It is essential that you are prepared for the *first* time we discuss a play or readings, and that will usually be in Tuesday's lectures. Note any problems in understanding either the dramaturgy of the play or the theoretical argument and consider the significance of associated reading. *Every student should bring at least one pertinent question and reasoned opinion to contribute to seminars.*

Workload

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 15 hours per week to a 22-point course at 200 level, and 16 hours per week to a 24-point course at 300 Level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, between 11 and 12 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. I also encourage you to attend as much Wellington theatre as possible while you are taking this course.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass the course, you must:

- Complete and submit all assignments.
- Attend at least 8 of 11 seminars.
- Achieve an overall passing grade.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's requirements, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures contained in the statutes in the VUW website.

The University Statute on Student Conduct and Policy on Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student

Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct
The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your paper you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Statute which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances

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. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus

THEATRE PROGRAMME 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 may only be consumed in the 77FT Green Room, 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.

End of Class

Rooms 306 (lecture theatre), 305, 205 (film room), 209 (seminar room), studios, studio foyer, 93 KP 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 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 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 drama 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. They are also available electronically on Blackboard.

Let's go

We can't

Why not?

We're waiting for Godot

(Despairingly) Ah

THEA 206/306 ENGL 242/342 2008 CLASS TIMETABLE

Tues 1:10-2:00	Seminars	Fri 1:10-2:00
8 July Introduction to Course/ What is the Avant-Garde?		11 July Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
15 July Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i>	Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i>	18 July Symbolism <i>The Crystal Spider</i> <i>DUE – Beckett Notes</i>
22 July Symbolism <i>The Intruder</i>	Symbolism Reader: Koszyn	25 July Jarry <i>Ubu Roi (Rex)</i>
29 July Jarry <i>Ubu Roi (Rex)</i>	Jarry Reader: Jarry, Selected Writings	1 Aug Surrealism Cocteau, <i>Wedding Party</i> <i>DUE –Symbolism and Jarry Notes</i>
5 Aug Surrealism Cocteau, <i>Wedding Party</i>	Surrealism Reader: Breton, “First Surrealist Manifesto”	8 Aug Parks <i>The America Play</i>
12 Aug Parks 'Possession' and 'Elements of Style'	Parks Reader: Drukman, 'Doo-a-diddly-dit-dit'	15 Aug Summary/Catch-Up <i>DUE – Surrealism and Parks Notes</i>
MID TRIMESTER BREAK		
2 Sept Dramaturgical Choices – Choosing the Play	<i>Choose Final Play</i>	5 Sept Final Play, Revisit <i>Workbook Due</i>
9 Sept Final Play, revisit	Final Play, Revisit Online Reading: Rudakoff, Proehl	12 Sept Final Play, Revisit
16 Sept Final Play, Revisit	Final Play, Revisit Reading TBA	19 Sept Final Play, Revisit
23 Sept Devising (RL) Reader: TBA	Devising Seminar	26 Sept Wooster Group (RL) Reader: TBA
30 Sept Guided Research	Debate (essay Part 1)	3 Oct Guided Research
7 Oct Guided Research	Group Work/Discussion (Essay Part 2) Wrap-Up	10 Oct Guided Research

