

## THEA 207 / ENGL 221 Classic Theatre

Trimester 2 2009

22 Points

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2009
Study week:	19 to 23 October 2009
Last piece of assessment due:	5pm, Friday 16 October 2009

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

#### Course co-ordinator:

Bronwyn Tweddle (BT)	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463-6852	Room 301, FT77
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Office Hours posted on door

#### Lecturing:

Matt Wagner (MW)	matthew.wagner@vuw.ac.nz	463-6712	Room 310, FT77
Megan Evans (ME)	megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz	463-9793	Room 302, FT77

**Seminars:** will be taken by the lecturers responsible for each module.

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

#### Lectures

Monday & Wednesdays	1.10pm – 2.00pm	Room 306, 77FT.
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#### Seminars

Thursdays	1.10 – 3.00pm,	Room 305, 77FT
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### COURSE DELIVERY

THEA 207/ENGL 221 consists of two lectures per week on historical background of the plays studied. At the end of each module one of the lectures will be filled with performances by the THEA 204 students of scenes from the plays studied. There is also a two-hour seminar per week and students will be expected to actively contribute to the discussion.

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any alterations or additional information will be announced in lectures, on Blackboard and on the class noticeboard on the top floor of 77FT. It is the student's responsibility to arrive punctually to class and to regularly check Blackboard and noticeboards, to ensure all new information is received. Also ensure your correct email address is listed on VUW Student Records, and check your email regularly.

### COURSE CONTENT

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

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should:

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

### EXPECTED 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.

### READINGS

**Essential texts: THEA 204/THEA 207/ ENGL 221 course reader, available from Student Notes (price tba).**

This reader contains all three plays studied and historical background material for each period. Students will need to read more broadly on the topics studied, in order to successfully complete assessment.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer. After week two all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Dramaturgical Report: due **12 noon, Thurs 13 August** (1500 words) 25%
2. In-class test: **1.10 – 2pm, Thurs 24 September** (50 minutes) 15%
3. Essay: due **5pm, Fri 16 October** (2500 words) 40%
4. Seminar Presentation: dates to be announced (20 minutes) 20%

Further details on these assignments will be available early in the trimester.

### Relation of assessment to 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.

## ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

## PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate), or a previously agreed extension, work handed in late will normally lose half a grade (2.5%) for each weekday or part-weekday late, **starting from the hour the work is due**. Comments on late work will be minimal. Work submitted late without an extension will not normally be accepted if it is more than two weeks after the due date. **Note:** if you fail to hand in work by this two-week deadline, you will normally 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)

### **Extensions**

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 **1 November**, except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to pass the course, a high standard of attendance (at least 80% of lectures, 9 out of 11 seminars, all 3 scene presentations – attendance will be noted) and completion of all assignments is required.

### **STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY**

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

**School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies**  
**THEATRE PROGRAMME: THEA 207/ENGL221 COURSE OUTLINE**

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

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

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

You 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 or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>

**THERE ARE SPECIFIC RULES FOR CONDUCT WITHIN THEATRE PROGRAMME SPACES (77FT, 93KP, 85FT, 225 ARO ST).** These are posted on Blackboard and students are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules and behave accordingly.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME: THEA 207/ENGL221 COURSE OUTLINE

**COURSE PROGRAMME (LECTURE CONTENT)**

Week 1	Mon 13 July	Introduction (BT/MW)
	Wed 15 July	Elizabethan staging (MW)
	Thurs 16 July	Seminar: <i>The Tempest</i>
Week 2	Mon 20 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Wed 22 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Thurs 23 July	Seminar: <i>The Tempest</i>
Week 3	Mon 27 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Wed 29 July	<i>The Tempest</i> Text Analysis (MW)
	Thurs 30 July	Seminar: <i>The Tempest</i>
Week 4	Mon 3 Aug	<i>The Tempest</i> in Performance (MW)
	Wed 5 Aug	TEMPEST PERFORMANCES
	Thurs 6 Aug	Seminar: <i>The Tempest</i>
Week 5	Mon 10 Aug	Discussion of <i>Tempest</i> performances
	Wed 12 Aug	Introduction to French Neo-classical Theatre (ME)
	Thurs 13 Aug	Seminar: <i>Tartuffe</i> <b>TEMPEST DRAMATURGICAL REPORT: due 12 noon, Thurs 13 August</b>
Week 6	Mon 17 Aug	French staging (ME)
	Wed 19 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
	Thurs 20 Aug	Seminar: <i>Tartuffe</i>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 24 August– Friday 4 September 2009		
Week 7	Mon 7 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
	Wed 9 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> Text Analysis (ME)
	Thurs 10 Sept	Seminar: <i>Tartuffe</i>
Week 8	Mon 14 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> in Performance (ME)
	Wed 16 Sept	TARTUFFE PERFORMANCES
	Thurs 17 Sept	Seminar: <i>Tartuffe</i>
Week 9	Mon 21 Sept	Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> performances
	Wed 23 Sept	Introduction to Greek Tragedy (BT)
	Thurs 24 Sept	Seminar: <i>Medea</i> <b>IN-CLASS TEST: 1.10 – 2.00PM Thurs 24 September</b>
Week 10	Mon 28 Sept	Classical Festivals and Staging (BT)
	Wed 30 Sept	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
	Thurs 1 Oct	Seminar: <i>Medea</i>
Week 11	Mon 5 Oct	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
	Wed 7 Oct	<i>Medea</i> Text Analysis (BT)
	Thurs 8 Oct	Seminar: <i>Medea</i>
Week 12	Mon 12 Oct	<i>Medea</i> in Performance (BT)
	Wed 14 Oct	MEDEA PERFORMANCES
	Thurs 15 Oct	Seminar: <i>Medea</i>

**ESSAY DUE: 5pm, Friday 16 October.**