

# THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451 Drama and Theory

**Trimester 1+2 2014**

3 March to 16 November 2014

**30 Points**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Trimester dates:	3 March to 16 November 2014
Teaching dates:	3 March to 17 October 2014
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	18 April to 4 May 2014
Mid-year break:	3 to 13 July 2014
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	25 August to 7 September 2014
Study week:	20 to 24 October 2014
Last assessment item due:	15 October
Withdrawal Dates:	Refer to <a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds">www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds</a> . If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to <a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats">www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats</a> .

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Wednesdays (as per schedule)	3.10 – 6.00pm	FT77 208
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## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Course Co-ordinator:</b> James McKinnon	Email: <a href="mailto:james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz">james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz</a>	Ph: 463 6115
Room 307, 77 Fairlie Tce	Office Hours: By appointment.	

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be announced in class, or posted on Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## **PRESCRIPTION**

In this course, a range of historical and contemporary critical and theoretical perspectives are brought to bear on a representative range of classical and contemporary dramatic texts. Topics covered include classical dramatic theory and dramaturgy, contemporary performance theory, feminist, psychoanalytical, postmodernist, intercultural and postcolonial approaches.

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)**

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. understand, discuss, and apply different critical approaches to the art, experience, and social place of theatre and drama;
2. use the aforementioned critical methodologies to critique live performance and dramatic texts from a variety of perspectives, and appreciate their implications to contemporary theatrical practise;
3. perceive how knowledge is constructed through discourse, and actively participate in that construction by engaging with course materials and peers;
4. recognise, discuss, and theorise the historical and ideological connections between different strains of theatre and performance theory;
5. develop and practice both scholarly and creative collaboration skills;
6. engage in oral and written critical discourse about dramatic and theatrical theory and performance;
7. recognise how both creative practice and knowledge are shaped by material, social, and ideological conditions that artists both determine and are determined by.

## **TEACHING FORMAT**

The course consists of 1) a series of seminars, roughly bi-weekly throughout the year; 2) selections of critical readings spanning the history of dramatic and theatrical history; 3) written critiques applying the ideas in the readings to examples of (written) drama and (live) theatre; 4) analysis & critique of one's own and one's peers' critiques.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To pass this course, students must submit at least 8 critiques and 8 critical reflections, and achieve a passing grade on all four assessment items listed below.

## **WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the year, or 10 hours per teaching week. Obviously the time spent on work outside class will be an estimate for an average student but it will provide the basis for discussion when the reality is far from the expectation.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451

In-class time: 36 hours

Assessments: 55 hours (see below)

Preparation (readings, watching plays): ~ 8 hrs/week

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Critiques:</b> 10 x MAX 500 word assessments of selected examples of drama &amp; theatre using criteria derived from assigned readings. These will be posted on a blog open to the class. <b>Due dates: TBD. Roughly bi-weekly from March 5 – Sept 10, at least 48 hours before the performance is discussed in class.</b></p> <p>Total time: 120 minutes per critique = 20 hours.</p>	45	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Research/Innovation Project:</b> A new creative/scholarly work developed through independent scholarly and/or performance research using course concepts, skills, and tools, comprising an oral presentation/performance and a written component. <b>Due Weeks 19 &amp; 20</b> (as scheduled in class)</p> <p>Total time: 20 hrs</p>	25	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Peer assessment:</b> 1) For each critique submission, you will give formative feedback on one classmate’s critique. <b>Due within 24 hours of the seminar.</b> 2) After all critiques are finished, you will write a (MAX 1000 word) summative “meta-critique” of two of your peers’ critiques throughout the course. <b>Due September 24.</b></p> <p>Total time: 10 hrs.</p>	20	1, 3, 5, 6
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Participation:</b> After each seminar, you will add a short critical reflection to your critique, which discusses the impact of the seminar discussion on your ideas. <b>Due within 24 hours of the seminar.</b></p> <p>Total time: 5 hrs.</p>	10	1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Details about each assessment item will be discussed in class and are provided on Blackboard.

1. **Group work:** Assignment Two is a group project. You may work with 1-3 partners, at the discretion and with the approval of the instructor. The assessment, however, will be individual, based on the oral and written presentations.
2. **Peer assessment:** Assignment three entails peer assessment. Half the mark (10% of your total grade) will be determined by taking the mean average of your peers’ assessments of your critiques; the other half (10% of your total mark) will come from the instructor’s assessment of *your* peer assessment.
3. **Marking criteria** for each assignment is provided on Blackboard and will be discussed in class.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Electronic assignments are submitted through Blackboard. Step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

### EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

#### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

**No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 2014.**

#### Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker. No late work will be accepted after October 17.

### MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

The assessment for this course consists largely of writing in response to up to 10 examples of live theatre and performance in Wellington. Students are responsible for purchasing tickets and arranging their transportation to and from performance venues.

### SET TEXTS

Knowles, Ric. *Reading the Material Theatre*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2003.

Other readings will be distributed through Blackboard.

You can order textbooks 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).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Carlson, Marvin. *Theories of the Theatre*. Expanded ed. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1993.

Fortier, Mark. *Theory/Theatre*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Routledge, 2002.

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

This course was completely overhauled for 2013 based on student feedback from 2012. Feedback from the 2013 cohort shows strong support for the new format and assessments, but we will continue to improve the course. For 2014, the "participation" assessment has been adjusted to make it more objective and transparent, and the "Research/Innovation Project" has been amended according to new policy about the content of 400-level courses. Anonymous student feedback on these and other issues will be solicited, and may be cited in research publications.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)

- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451

**THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451 COURSE PROGRAMME**

**Week 1**

**Week 2** Critique 1

Week 3

**Week 4** Critique 2

Week 5

**Week 6** Critique 3

Week 7

**Mid Trimester Break:** Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

**Week 8** Critique 4

**Week 9**

**Week 10** Critique 5

Week 11

**Week 12** Critique 6

**Mid Year Break:** Thursday 3 to Sunday 13 July 2014

**Week 13** Critique 7

**Week 14** Critique 8

**Week 15**

**Week 16** Critique 9

Week 17

**Week 18** Critique 10

**Mid Trimester Break:** Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014

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**THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 401/501 & ENGL 451**

Week 19

Week 20

Week 21

Week 22

Week 23

Week 24