

THEA 101 The Live Act: Introduction to Theatre

Trimester 1 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

20 Points



Othello, National Theatre, London 2013

Image source: <http://elsemanario.com/6972/othello-se-presenta-en-el-cenart-desde-londres/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	3 March to 6 June 2014
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	18 April to 4 May 2014
Last assessment item due:	6 June 2014
Withdrawal Dates:	Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds . If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats .

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 13.10pm – 14.00pm HMLT 205

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the THEA 101 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “S-Cubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions” link.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:	Megan Evans	megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz	463 9793	FT77/303
Teaching Staff:	David O'Donnell	david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz	463 6828	FT77/308
Administrative Tutor:	Hannah Banks	hannah.banks@vuw.ac.nz		
Programme Administrator:	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	436 5359	FT83/202

- Staff Office Hours are posted on Blackboard, and we are also available by appointment.
- Lectures will also be taken by James McKinnon, Lori Leigh, Simon Perris, James Davenport, Bronwyn Tweddle, and Nicola Hyland.
- Tutor names and contact information are posted on Blackboard.

Māori and Pasifika Support Tutor:

Sarah Hudson mpitutor@vuw.ac.nz 463 9599 or 027 563 7038 vZ908 Office Hours TBA

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and 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

An introduction to drama, theatre, and performance. The course will provide an overview of primarily western theatre history as a basis for introducing standard theatre terminology and critical approaches. These approaches will be applied in lectures to plays from a variety of periods and genres, normally including at least one non-western example, and be explored both dramaturgically and practically in tutorials. The course will also include criticism of live performance. At least one practical workshop will be held during the course.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 recognise the distinctive qualities of live theatrical performance
- 2 explain major concepts and terminology of theatre studies
- 3 list characteristics of a selection of plays of various genres and styles, and discuss their creative possibilities in performance

- 4 list characteristics of major periods of western theatre history and one or more non-western performance forms
- 5 analyse the performative and creative potential of plays through practical workshopping of text
- 6 illustrate understanding of one or more major critical approaches to drama and theatre by drawing examples from studied playtexts

TEACHING FORMAT

The course is taught in three lectures and one tutorial per week. Practical work and group discussion in tutorial provide the opportunity to develop understanding of material covered in lecture and readings, particularly regarding performance potential of studied plays. Tutorial attendance is required and students should have read the play or other material scheduled for discussion for that week's tutorial.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend 8 tutorials

WORKLOAD

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 200 hours to a 20-point course. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 13 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking and essay writing. It is important to note there is considerable variation between students in terms of learning styles, reading speed etc. Some students can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some of you will find you need or want to do more. You will also need to spend additional rehearsal time leading up to your tutorial presentation. Similarly, the suggested time for preparation of each assessment item listed below is only a very rough estimate. You should consider your past academic working process and begin to develop a realistic personal assessment of the preparation time needed for your university work.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p>Developing a Thesis (200 words)</p> <p>Marking criteria: Strong thesis, logically developed discussion, accurate and adequate use of examples, clarity and concision</p> <p>2–3 hours reading, 5–7 hours thinking and writing the draft due in tutorial, 1–2 hours revising the final version. (Note that this work can be incorporated into your Comparative Essay below) 8–12 TOTAL HOURS</p>	0% (but still mandatory)	2, 3, 4, 5	Draft due in tutorial 17/18 Mar; Final due noon Fri 21 Mar
2	<p>Dramaturgical Critique (1,500 words)</p> <p>Marking criteria: Strong thesis, logically developed discussion, accurate and adequate use of examples, clarity and concision</p> <p>IMPORTANT: plan for the cost of the theatre ticket</p> <p>2–3 hours attending the performance, 7–10 hours thinking and writing the first draft due in tutorial, 3–5 hours revising the final version. 12–18 TOTAL HOURS</p>	25%	1, 2, 3	Draft due in tutorial 7/8 Apr; Final due noon Fri 11 April
3	<p>Test (in class)</p> <p>1–2 hours study/revision time per module x 8 modules = 8–16 hours test preparation</p> <p>(IMPORTANT: this estimate assumes you have ALREADY done all the assigned reading, the estimated time covers revision only) 8–16 TOTAL HOURS</p>	25%	2, 3, 4	14 May
4	<p>Comparative Essay (2,000 words)</p> <p>Marking criteria: Strong thesis, logically developed discussion, accurate and adequate use of examples, clarity and concision</p> <p>3–5 hours reading/re-reading x 2 plays = 6–10 hours</p> <p>15–20 hours thinking and writing the first draft (encourage you to get feedback from a classmate but this won't happen in tutorial), 3–5 hours revising the final version 24–35 TOTAL HOURS</p>	35%	4, 5, 6	Noon 6 June
5	<p>Tutorial Presentation (3-5 minute scene presented in tutorial as scheduled by your tutor; 300–400 word</p>	15%	1, 4, 5, 6	tbc

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

<p>written self-assessment due one week following the presentation)</p> <p>Marking criteria: strength of analysis of the dramaturgy and performative options; evidence of reflective, constructive, critically engaged appraisal of the play; sensitivity to the text, the task, and the group's working process.</p> <p>3–4 hours reading the assigned play</p> <p>5 –7 hours of preparation and rehearsal</p> <p>2–3 hours reflecting and writing self-assessment</p> <p>10–14 TOTAL HOURS</p>				
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SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and 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. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor’s certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014. The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 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.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Students are required to purchase at least one theatre ticket (\$12-\$30) in order to complete the Dramaturgical Critique piece of assessment.

SET TEXTS

1. THEA 101 Student Notes (available from Student Notes Distribution Centre, approximately \$22.90).
2. *Urban Hymns*, published in the Playmarket Play Series 2010, *Three Young & Hungry Plays: Queen B, Exchange, and Urban Hymns* (available from Vic Books, price TBA).
3. *SEFTMS Guidelines for Students in THEA 101* (Blackboard under 'Course Resources').

You can order [textbooks and student notes](#) online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Additional material on theatrical activity in the historical periods we will study is available in the relevant chapters of:

Brockett and Hildy, *History of the Theatre* (numerous editions are available in the library). This supplemental reading is particularly recommended for your work on your scene presentation.

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

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: 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
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

THEA 101 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Tutorial Activities		Lecture Mon	Lecture Wed	Lecture Thur
1	Enrol in tutorial via Blackboard/ S-cubed (tutes begin in week 2)	Intro: pp. 1-10 Global: 11-18 <i>Island</i> : 19-32	3 Mar Intro ME/DOD	5 Mar Script Analysis: <i>Island</i> ME	6 Mar Performance Analysis: <i>Island</i> ME
2	Reading/ Thinking about Theatre <i>The Island</i>	<i>Urban Hymns</i> (Separate playscript in Playmarket Series)	10 Mar NZTheatre DOD	12 Mar NZ Theatre / <i>Urban Hymns</i> DOD	13 Mar <i>Urban Hymns</i> DOD
3	Developing a Thesis: <i>Urban Hymns</i> Assignment #1 – "Developing a Thesis" draft due in tutorial—peer feedback	Athens: 33-46 <i>Oedipus</i> : 47-67 Poetics: 68-77	17 Mar Ancient Greece JM	19 Mar Ancient Greece/ <i>Oedipus</i> JM	20 Mar Ancient Greece/ <i>Oedipus</i> SP Assignment #1 "Developing a Thesis" DUE Friday 21 Mar
4	Developing a Thesis: <i>Oedipus</i>		24 Mar Scenography JD	26 Mar Lighting/Costume Design ME	27 Mar Acting LL
5	Designing <i>Oedipus</i>	Japan: 78-94 <i>Matsukaze</i> : 95-100; <i>Chushingura</i> : 101-21 Zeami: 122-131	31 Mar Noh <i>Matsukaze</i> ME	2 Apr Kabuki/Bunraku ME	3 Apr <i>Chushingura</i> ME
6	Testing a Thesis: <i>Chushingura</i> Dramaturgical Critique draft due in tutorial—peer feedback	Medieval and Renaissance: 132-54; <i>Second Shepherd</i> : 155-66 <i>Othello</i> : 167-216	7 Apr Commedia BT	9 Apr Medieval & Elizabethan Staging ME	10 Apr <i>Othello</i> LL Dram Critique DUE Friday noon 11 April

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 101

7	Commedia	<i>Othello</i> : 167-216 Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Melodrama: 217- 226	14 Apr <i>Othello</i> LL	16 Apr <i>Othello</i> LL	17 Apr <i>Neoclassicism</i> <i>Romanticism</i> <i>Melodrama</i> ME
MidTerm Break 21 April – 4 May					
8	Testing a thesis: <i>Othello</i>	Thea & Cult to 1950: 227-237; <i>Miss Julie</i> : 245-266	5 May Rise of Director DOD	7 May Realist Revolution ME	8 May <i>Miss Julie</i> ME
9	Acting / Directing	Test Review	12 May <i>Miss Julie</i> ME	14 May TEST	15 May Gender Theory NH
10	Testing a thesis: <i>Miss Julie</i>	Thea & Culture Since 1950: 238-244 <i>Cloud Nine</i> : 267-295	19 May <i>Cloud 9</i> NH	21 May <i>Cloud 9</i> NH	22 May Global & Intercultural Theatre ME
11	Testing a Thesis: <i>Cloud Nine</i>	Global & Intercultural: 296- 309 <i>DESDEMONA</i> : 310- 329	26 May <i>Desdemona</i> ME	28 May <i>Desdemona</i> ME	29 May Postdramatic Theatre DOD
12	Queen's Birthday Mon, no tutes this week		2 June Queen's B-day No Lecture	4 June Scenes from 300- level productions plus Q&A with third year THEA students	5 June THEA 101 Scene Presentation Greatest Hits (could be you!) Nominated by tutors, worth 5% "extra credit" on tutorial presentation mark for performers & Useful review of studied plays for COMP ESSAY for everyone else Comparative Essay DUE Friday noon 6 June