

THEA 302 Conventions of Drama and Theatre

Trimester 1 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

30 Points



[Picture source: Palmer, Thorsten & Hendrik Neubauer. *The Weimar Republic Through the Lens of the Press*. Cologne: Könnemann, 2000. Print]

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Course production: Week 12: 4 – 7 June [NB: students MUST be available for technical rehearsals over the Queen's Birthday weekend, 31 May – 2 June]

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 302

Last assessment item due: Friday 20 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

Seminars/workshops:

Tuesdays and Thursdays	15.10 – 18.00pm	FT77 305
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Rehearsals

Considerable time, additional to that formally timetabled, will be spent on the class production, including rehearsals on evenings and weekends. Rehearsal times outside class hours will be finalised when casting is complete, but will generally be 2 to 3 evenings during the week, and a full day on the weekend. Rehearsals will take place in Studio 77, unless otherwise advised.

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

PLEASE NOTE: This course is very practical and demands consistent commitment and collaboration. It is essential that you **be on time** for all classes and rehearsals as missing physical warm-ups could lead to injury.

Due to the intensive nature of the work, a very high level of attendance at classes is expected. Missed classes must be justified by a medical certificate. Students MUST make themselves available for technical rehearsals the weekend prior to performance week on 31 May – 2 June [Queen's Birthday long weekend]

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator	Bronwyn Tweddle	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463 6852	FT77/Room 301
Technical Officer	Jim Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463 6842	FT77/ Room 204
Programme Administrator	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83/Room 202

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be sent via email and announcements in Blackboard in the first instance, so it is your responsibility to ensure that Bronwyn has your current email address and that you check your emails on a regular basis. 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. Information may also be announced in class and/or posted on the THEA 302 notice board on level three, 77 FT. It is recommended therefore that students regularly check the notice boards and Blackboard in addition to their email. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 2 working days.

PRESCRIPTION

A critical and practical study of a particular historical period, national drama, or theatrical genre; and of the transformation of dramatic script into public theatrical performance. 2014: 20th Century German Theatre.

COURSE CONTENT

20th Century German Theatre will investigate the social, historical and artistic conditions of German Theatre in this explosive century. Two key themes of the course are: How are artists and their artistic works shaped by historical events? What is the role and responsibility of the artist in society? These questions will be explored by comparing the two dictatorships which occurred in 20th century Germany – the Nazi period and the post-war German Democratic Republic. This comparison will occur through a practical application of historical research in a course production.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 Develop their research skills, specifically in analysing historical material;
- 2 Apply this research in a practical theatre production; and
- 3 Increase their practical theatre skills, especially in physicality and ensemble work

TEACHING FORMAT

Classes will be a mixture of seminars, practical workshops and rehearsals. Rehearsals will be scheduled once the course begins. Students are expected to engage actively in seminars, as seminar content is directly related to practical production work. Students must attend all rehearsals for which they are called, unless they have a medical certificate.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Submit all assignments, on or by the specified dates, unless provision is allowed for extension.
- Full attendance at all specified rehearsals and performances is also mandatory, unless a medical certificate is provided.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week. It is always difficult to specify precisely the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. In this course, it is difficult to separate the practical versus academic assessment components, as the research assignments are designed to feed explicitly into the production and performance work. The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week. This means you should expect to spend an average of about 14 hours per week (apart from the 6 hours of scheduled class time) in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. A substantial portion of this will be scheduled rehearsal time, and your research and writing time will need to take place in addition to that. We will try to balance the requirements of the course, but inevitably these hours will be substantially increased during the later phase of rehearsal and the performance period in weeks 9 – 12. **YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE SPECIAL CARE TO MANAGE YOUR WORKLOAD IN THIS COURSE WITH YOUR OTHER COURSEWORK AND COMMITMENTS.** Detailed rehearsal schedules will be provided to allow you to plan ahead. Also, a standard of professionalism includes **attending to your health and general wellbeing** by getting enough sleep and nutrition to function effectively, especially as performance looms. It is important that students support each other, in a collective and collaborative sense.

NO THEATRE WORK OUTSIDE YOUR THEATRE COURSES SHOULD BE TAKEN ON WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE COURSE CO-ORDINATOR *BEFORE THE COURSE BEGINS*

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Seminar presentation or scene presentation and handout Seminar presentation option: 20 minute presentation Scene presentation option: 5 minute scene, 15 minute exegesis	30%	1, 2	Due dates variable
2 Workbook portfolio exercises (each worth 10%) Portfolio exercise 1: Character development Portfolio exercise 2: Production research project Portfolio exercise 3: Costume & props work Portfolio exercise 4: Production reflection NB: All portfolio exercises are 1500 words maximum	40%	1, 2, 3	Friday 4 April Friday 25 April Friday 16 May Friday 20 June
3 Workshop preparation and contribution: the following will be taken into account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artistic contribution to the production (both performance and production roles) 	30%	2, 3	6 June

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to class and rehearsals • Ability to work collaboratively with others • Timely completion of required preparation work for classes and course production <p>Please note that technical and administrative staff may contribute comments which will affect this contribution mark.</p>			
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Further details on these assessment tasks, including detailed marking criteria, are available on class assignment briefs. **All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination.**

Relationship Between Assessment and Objectives

In addition to developing research skills, the *seminar or scene presentation* encourages a critical and artistic engagement with the historical and aesthetic topics explored in class (course learning objectives 1 & 2). The *workbook portfolio* allows a documentation of personal explorations and development of critical thinking about the course production and the student’s own developing skills (course learning objectives 1, 2, & 3). 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 course production (course learning objectives 2 & 3).

Group work: Though all academic assessments are individual for this course, theatre work is always creative and collaborative, and makes demands on the ensemble of students, in mutual support of each other and the work generated between them. What is particularly important is to understand how one’s own focus and work discipline supports others; how individual initiative and consistency support the general aspiration and realisation of the group. Please **always** be on time to classes and rehearsals, and **always** take full responsibility for tasks allotted to you, or for which you volunteer. Your ability to work as a member of an ensemble will be reflected in the contribution mark.

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. Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Students are encouraged to submit their assignment to Bronwyn via email on: bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz instead of as a hard copy. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.

Grades and comments will be returned to you in hard copy in class. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the

Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

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

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 should wear comfortable clothing, which allows extended movement, to all classes and rehearsals. As part of their workbook portfolio, students will be required to source or make props and costume pieces appropriate to their character.

SET TEXTS

The playtext for the course production will be provided to the students. Essential readings will be made available via Blackboard and/or will be determined by individual research projects allocated in class.

RECOMMENDED READING

A detailed list of recommended readings and viewing material is available on Blackboard.

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 seminar 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

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. 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)
- 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

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THEA 302 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Tuesday 4 March	Course introduction
	Thursday 6 March	Historical overview: <i>Jahrhundertwende</i> (1900) – WW1 (1918)
Week 2	Tuesday 11 March	Artistic movements: Expressionism/Dada
	Thursday 13 March	Historical overview: Weimar Republic
Week 3	Tuesday 18 March	Artistic movements: Weimar Republic
	Thursday 20 March	Key early 20 th century artists
Week 4	Tuesday 25 March	Lead-up to the Nazi <i>Machtergreifung</i>
	Thursday 27 March	Lead-up to the formation of the DDR
Week 5	Tuesday 1 April	Nazi period: Historical overview
	Thursday 3 April	DDR: Historical overview
Week 6	Tuesday 8 April	Nazi period: Propaganda and control
	Thursday 10 April	DDR: Propaganda and control
Week 7	Tuesday 15 April	Nazi period: Design and daily life
	Thursday 17 April	DDR: Design and daily life
	Mid Trimester Break:	Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014
Week 8	Tuesday 6 May	Nazi period: The theatre system & other arts
	Thursday 8 May	DDR: The theatre system & other arts
Week 9	Tuesday 13 May	Nazi period: Should I stay or should I go?
	Thursday 15 May	DDR: Should I stay or should I go?
Week 10	Tuesday 20 May	Nazi period: Responsibility of the artist
	Thursday 22 May	DDR: Responsibility of the artist
Week 11	Tuesday 27 May	Nazi period: WW2 and the end of the regime
	Thursday 29 May	DDR: Fall of the wall and the end of the regime
Week 12	Tuesday 3 June	Final rehearsals/Production work
	Thursday 5 June	Conclusions and course round-up