ARTS2127

Great Plays

Term One // 2021

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

What makes a play great? Why are some plays re-staged and re-interpreted by each new generation? Great Plays will develop your skills in reading canonical plays written for live performance. The course combines exercises in literary analysis of written play scripts with a consideration of performance conventions in theatre production. Through lessons that combine rehearsed readings with evidence from productions, you will explore a broad range of highly-regarded plays from antiquity to the present day. You will consider how these plays were first performed and their ongoing significance for audiences today.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Interpret a playtext and prepare an excerpt for a rehearsed reading.
2. Investigate the relationship of a playtext to the historical, theatrical, and ideological context in which it was conceived, staged, and received.
3. Research, write and talk about playtexts in accordance with a number of relevant scholarly and industry practices.

Teaching Strategies

Staff-led lectures model ways of interpreting, writing and talking about playtexts and their contexts. Tutorials and seminars facilitate student-led learning activities such as rehearsed readings and self-devised essays. Course content and assessment tasks assist students to build towards complex engagements with playtexts and their relation to our social world.

Assessment

See Moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Presentation/Performance	35%	In the lecture/seminars in Weeks 4, 5, 7 & 8	1, 2, 3
Essay Plan	15%	29/03/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2
Playtext Analysis Essay	50%	27/04/2020 11:59 PM	2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Presentation/Performance

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 30mins

Details:

Group and Individual

Duration: 30-minutes

Presentation/Performance

Percentage: 35% [20% group presentation; 15% individual contribution to presentation]

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Length: 15-20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q & A

Weighting: 50%

Due date: Week 4, 5, 7 or 8 as assigned

TASK INSTRUCTIONS:

In a small group of 3-5 people you will prepare a short rehearsed reading of a scene from one of the set playtexts for this course, and present this group reading in one of the seminars in Weeks 4, 5, 7 or 8. The Rehearsed Reading should last between 15 and 20mins. There will be a 10min Q & A discussion after each reading.

The group Reading presentation is worth 20%% and your Individual Contribution to the Rehearsed Reading is worth 15%.

A mandatory Self-Evaluation and Peer Review form, available in the Moodle Assessment section, will be used to assist in the assessment of the Individual Contribution component and must be submitted to the Convener immediately after the Reading on the day of your group's presentation.

Wmsp epmsnjq em_jq dmp rfc Pcfc_pqcb Pc_bgle _pc rm:

1. undertake basic research into the playtext your group will be giving a Reading of. You should read all of the essential weekly readings associated with that playtext. Each individual in the group should also read at least 1 additional relevant source, and share your findings with your group. Your group should email the Convener its list of all its membersў additional readings on the day of the Reading presentation. These bibliographic lists will be placed in the Moodle Assessment section.

2. present a technically fluent and engaging reading i.e. one that demonstrates attention to diction, volume, pace, inflection, rudimentary gesture, spatial relations, significant prop and costume items, and actor/spectator relations.

3. select and (if relevant) edit a playtext excerpt that suits the nature of the group doing the reading, and demonstrate through both the Reading and post-Reading Q & A discussion a thoughtful interpretation of that excerpt and its relation to the playtext from whence it comes

4. demonstrate through both the Reading and the brief post-Reading discussion what the group thought was 'great' about the selected excerpt and playtext, and what aspects of the playtext might appeal to today's audiences.

Groups will be organized and finalized in the Week 1 & 2 seminars. From the end of Wk 2 it is no longer possible for you to change group. Each of these groups will choose and present an excerpt from one of the following playtexts:

1. *?e_ kckl ml* by Aeschylus (Reading presented in Wk 4)
2. *Jwqgqrp_r_* by Aristophanes (Reading presented in Wk 4)
3. *Pmkcm _lb Hsjgcr* by Shakespeare (Reading presented in Wk 5)
4. *Rfc Pmtcpq* by Aphra Behn (Reading presented in Wk 7)
5. *Umwxcai* by Büchner (Reading presented in Wk 8)

All group members are encouraged to be a reader-performer in the presentation. If you have good reason for not participating as a reader-performer (such as a medical condition or disability), you should provide the relevant documentation to the Course Convener by Wk 2 and she will negotiate an alternative task with you. If you are unexpectedly unable to participate as a reader-performer in the Reading Presentation, and you have good cause (i.e. illness, unexpected crisis etc.), you should let your Convener know immediately and may apply for Special Consideration https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration. If you fail to participate as a reader-performer in your group's presentation, and you do not provide good cause within 2 weeks of the presentation date, you will receive a fail mark for both the Rehearsed Reading and the Individual Contribution to the Rehearsed Reading.

Each member of the group should contribute to the role of Dramaturg. That is, read, analyze and research the playtext being used, and make significant contributions to the interpretation and use of text(s) in the performance. Areas to research might include: playwright, historical context, form and

Details:

Individual

600-words

Students produce an essay plan

Percentage: 15

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Word Length: 600 words

Weighting: 15%

Due date: Submit to Turnitin before midnight on Mon 29 March (Wk 7)

TASK INSTRUCTION:

This assessment asks you to devise a short Essay Plan of 600 words that will provide a starting point and guide for your Playtext Analysis essay (Assessment 3). You should begin researching your Essay Plan and consult with your Convener (via her Office Hours i.e. in person or online) from Wk 2 onwards.

Your Essay Plan should contain the following 5 parts and in the following order:

1. Title and author of the playtext you will analyse;
2. A list of the 2 or more topics you have chosen to engage with. The topics are:
   - cultural (social and artistic) context
   - architecture of the assumed theatre building or playing space
   - genre
   - plot
   - characters or personae
   - dialogue and diction

1. dev uonaof the a g o e

word count].

Assessment Criteria:

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1. the thoughtfulness and manageability of the chosen research questions and/or issue(s), and your awareness of their significance for our understanding of the selected playtext (40%);
2. the relevance of the selected topic areas to the questions, issues and playtext (20%);
3. your ability to select, describe and analyse the relevance of a reading or source material (20%);
4. your ability to plan the timing of your research and writing processes and to present your sources in accordance with your preferred style guide (20%);
5. generic aspects of scholarly writing i.e. writing style, citation practice, sentence and paragraph structure, presentation etc. (20%).

Submission:

You must submit your work in 12-point font, double spaced and paginated to Turnitin before midnight on Monday 29 March. Essay Plans submitted on time will be returned by Wed. 7 April.

Always keep an electronic and hard copy YOURSELF.

Feedback: Rubric indicating level of performance against each assessment criteria, written formative feedback, and percentage grade.

Turnitin setting:

Word Length: 2,500 words

Weighting: 50%

Due date: Submit to Turnitin before midnight on Wednesday 28 April

TASK INSTRUCTION:

You must complete a self-devised dramaturgical analysis (c. 2,500 words) of a playtext addressed during the course in Wks 2-10 inclusive. The selected text must be different from the one you researched for the Rehearsed Reading. For this analysis you must, firstly, consider some aspect of the relationship between the text and how it works in performance. And secondly, you must devise your own essay question. Your essay word count must be no less than 2,250 and no more than 2,750 words and you should aim to submit an assignment that is as close to 2,500 words as possible.

You will need to share your proposed research topic in the Week 7 seminar which is when you submit your Essay Plan (Assessment 2 (15%)). If you are interested in writing about a playtext we address in Wks 7, 8, 9 or 10 you will need to read that text and the set readings ahead of the Wk 7 seminar. For this seminar, please bring an e-copy of your Essay Plan to class,

When finalizing your essay, you must do the following 3 things:

1. engage with 2 or more of the following:

cultural (social and artistic) context

influence your grading.

It is better that your analysis goes narrow and deep rather than broad and shallow. You should be

consult:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/footnote-bibliography-or-oxford-referencing-system

However, an increasingly popular and equally acceptable referencing system is the ‘In-Text’ or ‘Harvard’ referencing system. See:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing

Ufgafctcp qwqrck wms afmmqc rfc emjbcl psjc gq rm `c amlqgqrclr*

Rfc SLQU Jg`p_pw mddcpq k_lw qcptgacq rm qrsbclrq qccigle fcjn ugrf rfcgp cqq_wq _lb qrsbw qigjjq, Qcc dmp cv_knjc8* https://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/writing

Gd wms umsjb jgic dsprfcp fcjn ugrf wmsp qrsbgcq _lb wmsp cqq_wq gl n_prgasj_p* njc_qc amlqsjr Rfc Jc_plgle Aclrpc_q qcptgacq ml* http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/

Submission notes: See Moodle

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance at online Lectures and on-campus Seminars is mandatory in this course as they are directly associated with Course Learning Outcomes. If a student fails to attend Seminar classes in Weeks 2-8 without good cause and/or fails to attend extra-curricular group meetings for the Rehearsed Reading this will impact on their mark for the Individual Contribution to the Rehearsed Reading (15%). If a student fails to attend without good cause the Seminar class in which their group is presenting their Rehearsed Reading for assessment, this will be counted as a non-submission of Assessment 1.

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure they sign the Class Roll that is distributed in each week from Wk 1 onwards. This Roll is distributed early in each 2hr class. If a student is unable to attend a class, they should inform the Convenor, preferably in advance of the class. Where relevant, supporting documentation should be provided as soon as possible. During the Rehearsed Reading period (Wks 2 to 8), students should also inform the student Facilitator(s) in their group.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 16 Feb, online Introducing the course, as well as notions of the great play.
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, Blockhouse G13 Aristotle's theory of a great play: 'Poetics'.
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 23 Feb, online *?e_ k c k l m l* by Aeschylus: A great Greek tragedy.
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 24 Feb, Blockhouse G13 Studying plot, action and genre.
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	Wed 4-6pm, 2 March, online *Jwqgqrp_r_* by Aristophanes: A great Greek comedy.
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 3 March, Blockhouse G13 Studying plays in context: ancient Greek theatre and society.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 9 March, online *Pmk cm _ l b Hsjgcr* by Shakespeare8 A great Renaissance tragedy.

	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 10 March, Blockhouse G13 Renaissance staging, stage directions and dialogue. Assessment 1: Rehearsed Readings 1 & 2 (*?e_ k c k l m l* and *Jwqgqrp_r_*)
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 16 March, online *Rfc Pmtcp mp Rfc @_ lgqf%b A_t_jgcpq* by Behn: a great Restoration comedy
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 17 March, Blockhouse G13 Restoration theatre, stage directions and characterization. Assessment 1: Rehearsed Reading 3 (*Pmk cm _ l b Hsjgcr*)
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Assessment	Term flex week. No lecture or seminar this week. Preparation of Assessment 2 - Essay Plan (15%) due before midnight on Monday 29 March (Wk 7) to Turnitin.
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 30 March, online *Umwxcai* by Büchner: early 19C docudrama *L@8 ?qqcqqk c l r 0 + Cqq_w Nj_ l &/3# ' bsc wcqrcpb_w `cdmpc kgb lgefr m l Km l b_w 07 K_paf &U i 5' rm Rsp l grg l ,*
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 31 March, Blockhouse G13 Treatment of the actor/character's body in relation to its environments. Assessment 1: Rehearsed Reading 4 (*Rfc Pmtcp*)
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	Tues 2-4pm, 6 April, online *U_grg l e dmp Embmr* by Beckett: mid 20C Absurdism.
	Seminar	Wed 2-4pm, 7 April, Blockhouse G13 Engagement with style and post-war culture. Assessment 1: Rehearsed Reading 5 (*Umwxcai*)
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	Tues 2-4pm, 13 April, online

		Bcqac lbc lrq md rfc Cs lsaf ?bk gp_j by Kuo Pao Kun: late 20C World drama. Guest lecture by Dr Wah Guan Lim.
	Seminar	Tues 4-6pm, 13 April, online Holistic playtext analysis and canonization
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	Tues 4-6pm, 20 April, online *Rfc Bpmtcpq Ugdc* by Purcell: a 21 eminis3

Seminar

Resources

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
-

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.