ARTS3132

Based on a True Story: Theatres of the Real

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
School Office	sam@unsw.edu.au	Please email for an appointment		

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

How do artists tell true stories on stage? What are the prospects and challenges of making performance with real people's stories, voices and histories? In this course, you will explore the contexts, practices and debates that surround "theatre of the real." You will encounter how artists work with true stories in various genres, including autobiographical, verbatim, testimonial, documentary, tribunal, post-internet, immersive and installation theatre. You will also examine the difference between theatrical representation, participation and self-determination. The aim is for you to become an ethically informed spectator and producer of theatre made by, with and about real people and their communities.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe and contextualise key genres of theatre and performance based on true stories
2. Evaluate the ethical considerations in making and watching theatre that stages real people, voices, and histories
3. Investigate and explain how theatre based on true stories both reflects and shapes personal and political realities

Teaching Strategies

The course aims are realised through a flexible seminar format during which historical and critical content will be delivered through Learning and Teaching activities such as: face-to-face lectures, group discussion and presentation, audio-visual material including screenings, and live performance-text readings and other practical activities.

The content covered will include ancient, modern and contemporary practitioners and their engagement with real or true events, voices, and people. Student-led engagement is supported through a series of student presentations, in which they present creative and critical responses to course material. Students are also supported to develop their own research project, through a scaffolded process that includes consultation and formative feedback on initial proposals and summative feedback on the final written submission (essay or performance text).

Assessment

Support Services
For information about how to write essays and document your references, consult Academic Skills Support guides at
https://student.unsw.edu.au/essay-and-assignment-writing

Referencing
Please use Chicago or MLA referencing systems.

Students Please Note
All marks are provisional until they have been formally confirmed by the Faculty Academic Quality Committee at the conclusion of each term. Marks may be subject to change for various reasons including the application of late penalties, moderation and the application of academic misconduct penalties.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Project Proposal	20%	04/07/2021 11:59 PM	1, 3
Group Presentation	30%	In class	2, 3
Major Research Project (Essay or Creative Work)	50%	13/08/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Project Proposal

Length: 500 words

Details:

This assessment asks you to devise a Proposal of 500-550 words that presents a research question and plan that will provide a starting point and guide for your Major Research Project

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Further information including assessment criteria, submission instructions and rationale are provided on Moodle.

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

Assessment 2: Group Presentation

Details:

This assessment asks you to work in small groups in order to present a c. 30-minute critical and/or creative response to set topics on material that extends course content. You will receive a group mark for the presentation (worth 15% of course assessment) and an individual mark for your own contribution to the presentation (worth 15% of course assessment)

Additional details:

Further information including assessment criteria, submission instructions and rationale are provided on Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Major Research Project (Essay or Creative Work)

Details:

For the Major Research Project you must submit one of the following: (1) A self-devised essay (2,500 words). OR: (2) A playscript or other piece of writing for performance (2,500 words).

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Further information including assessment criteria, submission instructions and rationale are provided on Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of seminars is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20 percent will result in the award a Fail grade.

In seminars, you will actively engage with core course content that will enable you to demonstrate attainment of the course learning outcomes:

1. Identify and contextualise a broad range of theatres of the real and their distinctive artistic strategies;
2. Critically assess the ethics of making and watching theatre that stages real or true events, voices, and people;
3. Evaluate how theatres of the real reflect and shape personal and political realities;
4. Contribute in a thoughtful and socially aware manner to student-led group research and presentation work;
5. Conceive and execute a self-devised research project that culminates in an essay or piece of creative writing.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Seminar	**Real Ethics: Consent, Consultation, Participation**
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Seminar	**Real People and Effects: The Work of Rimini Protokoll**
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Seminar	**Real Selves: Autobiographical Theatre**
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Seminar	**Real Voices: Naturalism and Verbatim Theatre**
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Seminar	**Real Trials: Tribunal Theatre**
	Assessment	Research Project Proposal due
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Seminar	**FLEX WEEK**
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Seminar	**Real Places: Site-Specific Performance**
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Seminar	**Real Research: Research Consultations**
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Seminar	**Real Intimacies: One-to-One Performance, Autoteatro, and Audio Walks**
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Seminar	**Real Lies, Fake News: Future Theatres of the Real**
	Assessment	Major Research Project due Friday, August 13.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Readings as listed in the course schedule are available through Moodle and via links to the UNSW library.

Recommended Resources

- Alison Forsyth and Chris Megson (eds), *Get Real: Documentary Theatre Past and Present* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)
- Ulrike Garde and Meg Mumford, *Theatre of Real People: Diverse Encounters at Berlin's Hebbel am Ufer and Beyond* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016)
- Paul Brown (ed.), *Verbatim Verbatim: Contemporary Documentary Theatre* (Sydney: Currency Press, 2008)
- Deirdre Heddon, *Autobiography and Performance* (London: Palgrave, 2008)
- Carol Martin, *Theatre of the Real* (London: Palgrave, 2013)
- Derek Paget, *True Stories? Documentary Drama on Radio, Screen and Stage* (Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 1990)

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback on the course is gathered periodically, using among other means the UNSW myExperience online student course survey facility (see https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/myexperience). This is only the third iteration of ARTS3132 - and the first in a trimester - so the convener will be particularly interested to gather your feedback on all aspects of the course, particularly your experience of content, delivery mode, structure, and assessment tasks.

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 automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

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:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

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

Theatre and Perfrmance Studies, School of the Arts and Media, UNSW Sydney

CRICOS

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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.