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ARTS2121

Theatre in Our Times

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Meg Mumford	m.mumford@unsw.edu.au	Wednesday 3-5pm	Room 112, Level 1, Robert Webster	9385 4865

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jonathan Bollen	j.bollen@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Room 246D, Level 2, Robert Webster	9385 0719

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Mark Mitchell	m.mitchell@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Io Myers	9385 4863
Paul Matthews	p.matthews@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Io Myers	9385 5378

School Contact Information

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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

Performance matters in the world. Artists always respond to the problems of their time. And theatre-makers can be the first to respond when issues emerge. In this course, you will explore how artists create performances that engage audiences in contemporary debates of our time. How is performance intervening in gender politics, race relations, refugee crises and climate change? You will explore the social origins of current issues and the methods theatre-makers are using to respond. With the skills that you develop, you will come to understand how theatre-makers use innovation in performance to transform our relation to the world. You will learn how the world works within theatre and how theatre works in the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. discuss the specified theoretical frameworks and how they have influenced performance making and reception;
2. explain how the artistic case studies embody changes in the form, content, and politics of Western performance since the 1960s.
3. analyze and experiment with contemporary performance approaches to text, space, time, performing and spectating.
4. assess the way your own exposure to contemporary theory and performance practice has impacted on your approach to the nature and functions of live performance

Teaching Strategies

Performance can never be divorced from its social, cultural, historical, and material circumstances. Hence to study a performance text is to study its context too. These twin tasks, to learn how to read texts and contexts, require multiple methods, some teacher-directed and some student-led. This course uses a combination of lectures with screenings, tutorials, and a facilitated creative process and presentation. In addition, students are expected to work independently, outside of class time, reading, taking notes, watching video clips, planning practical activities, and attending live performances. The lectures set out general theoretical frameworks and introduce particular theatrical works. The tutorials are opportunities for the group to discuss and reflect on these concepts and case studies as well as to do some practical exercises and experiments. For two weeks in the later part of the course, the lecture and tutorials are replaced by student-led, creative process and presentations. This develops their awareness of their own abilities and responsibilities as cultural producers.

Theatre in Our Times extends knowledge of both theatre studies, as covered in the gateway course *ARTS1120 Experiencing Theatre*, and performance studies, as covered in the gateway course *ARTS1121 The Life of Performance*. It extends the curricula of these courses by focusing on a variety of performance genres, including dramatic plays, postdramatic theatre, performance art, and stand-up comedy. It integrates self-reflexive and performative learning and teaching strategies in both pedagogy and assessment.

Assessment

For guidance about assignment and essay writing, please consult the following UNSW Sydney online documents:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/essay-and-assignment-writing>

Referencing Systems

You are welcome to use a referencing system that you have a good grasp of and that is relevant to your university studies. Whichever system you choose to use, the golden rule is to follow it carefully and be consistent. Here are some systems commonly used in Theatre & Performance Studies if you would like to use 1 of them:

* Oxford footnote/bibliography system:

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

* 'In-Text' or 'Harvard' referencing system:

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

* Chicago Author-Date referencing system (17th edition):

Quick Guide

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

The *Full Guide* is available via the UNSW Library:

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html>

The UNSW Library offers many services to students seeking help with their essays and study skills. See <https://www.library.unsw.edu.au/study/services-for-students>

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	40%	31/03/2020 05:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Group performance	30%	22/04/2020 09:00 AM	1,3
Critical Reflection	30%	29/04/2020 05:00 PM	1,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,000-2,500 words

Details: 2000-2500 words Grade, Rubric and Comment. Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Please note that this assignment has the following 2 components:

Component 1: Essay Plan to be submitted to Turnitin by 5pm on Thursday 5 March in Wk 3. This component is mandatory and will receive formative feedback (commentary) within 2 weeks of submission. However, it does not carry a % weighting.

The Essay Plan should be 1 x A4 page, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman. It should clarify the following:

- 1) which of the 2 possible essay tasks you will be addressing and why you have chosen your preferred task;
- 2) the title of the text(s) and/or event(s) you will be analysing (please choose from the list of case studies provided in class);
- 3) some of the key contemporary issues and artistic strategies you plan to address and why;
- 4) A list of 3 readings in addition to the course's mandatory and recommended readings that you believe will be relevant to your essay.

Component 2: Essay (c. 2,000-2,500 words) to be submitted to Turnitin by Tues 31 March in Wk 7 and weighted 40%. You will receive formative and summative feedback via Turnitin within 2 weeks of submission.

You must select 1 of the following 2 analytical tasks for your Essay:

* **Either:** Write an analysis of ONE of the Case Studies with reference to TWO of the following critical perspectives: feminism or ecofeminism; postcolonialism; posthumanism.

* **Or:** Write an analysis of TWO of the Case Studies with reference to ONE of the following critical perspectives: feminism or ecofeminism; postcolonialism; posthumanism.

For further information see Moodle.

Submission notes: See Moodle.

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

Assessment 2: Group performance

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 10 minutes

Details: 10 minutes Grade, Rubric, and Comment Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

This group performance takes place during the lecture slot in Wk 10 i.e. on Wednesday 22 April 2019, from 9am to 11am.

In small groups, you will create a 10-minute performance to be shared with the rest of the class in Week 10. Rubric indicating level of performance against each assessment criteria, written formative feedback, and percentage grade. Self-evaluation and peer review is taken into account and may result in an individual mark being given instead of a group mark in cases of discrepant contribution.

For further information see Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Critical Reflection

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,000-1,250 words

Details: 1000-1250 words Grade and Rubric Feedback via LMS.

Additional details:

Write a 1,000-word paper that critically reflects upon the devising and rehearsal process as well as the final performance work. This is the final assessment task. Rubric indicating level of performance against each assessment criteria and percentage grade.

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

Attendance Requirements

Attendance at all Lectures and Tutorials is mandatory in this course as they are directly associated with Course Learning Outcomes. If a student fails to attend without good cause the class in which their group is presenting their performance for assessment, this will be counted as a non-submission of Assessment 2.

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 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 preparatory period for the Group Performance (Wks 8, 9 & 10), students should also inform the student Facilitator(s) in their group.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 17 February - 21 February	Lecture	Wed 19 Feb, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Meg Mumford Theatre in Our Times - Practice & Theory
	Tutorial	Frid 21 Feb, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 Introductions and discussing theatre's relationship to our times and to theory and vice versa. Exploration of Essay case study texts and events.
Week 2: 24 February - 28 February	Lecture	Wed 26 Feb, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Meg Mumford (Eco)Feminism: Theory
	Tutorial	Frid 28 Feb, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing readings; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 3: 2 March - 6 March	Lecture	Wed 4 March, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Meg Mumford (Eco)Feminism: Case Studies
	Tutorial	Frid 6 March, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
	Assessment	Assessment 1, Component 1: Essay Plan

		Due to Turnitin by 5pm on Thursday 5 March in Wk 3
Week 4: 9 March - 13 March	Lecture	Wed 11 March, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Jonathan Bollen Postcolonialism: Theory
	Tutorial	Frid 13 March, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing readings; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 5: 16 March - 20 March	Lecture	Wed 18 March, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Jonathan Bollen Postcolonialism: Case Studies
	Tutorial	Frid 20 March, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 6: 23 March - 27 March	Lecture	Wed 25 March, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Jonathan Bollen Posthumanism: Theory
	Tutorial	Frid 27 March, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing readings; one hour of performance exercises.
	Assessment	Assessment 1, Component 2: Essay (40%) Prepare this assignment which is due to Turnitin by 5pm on Tues 31 March.
Week 7: 30 March - 3 April	Lecture	Wed 1 April, 9-11am, UNSW Business School 216 Lecturer: Dr Meg Mumford Posthumanism: Case Studies
	Tutorial	Frid 3 April, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 8: 6 April - 10 April	Reading	This is a reading week. There is no lecture. During this week you should work on the Group Performance both independently and with your group.

	Reading	This is a reading week. There is no tutorial. During this week you should work on the Group Performance both independently and with your group.
Week 9: 13 April - 17 April	Studio	Wed 15 April, 9-11am, venues tbc Facilitators: Dr Meg Mumford & Dr Jonathan Bollen Rehearsal for Group Performance
	Studio	Frid 17 April, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 Rehearsal for Group Performance
Week 10: 20 April - 24 April	Assessment	Wed 22 April, 9-11am, venue tbc Facilitators: Dr Meg Mumford & Dr Jonathan Bollen Group Performance Presentations
	Tutorial	Frid 24 April, 9-11am or 11-1pm, Webster 335 Discussion of group performances and feedback forum on ARTS2121 course
	Assessment	Prepare for Critical Reflection on your group's devising and rehearsal process as well as the final performance work. The Critical Reflection is due to Turnitin by 5pm on Wed 29 April.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The set readings are available in the course Moodle site and via the UNSW main library. There is no Study Kit for this course.

Recommended Resources

The recommended readings are available in the course Moodle site and via the UNSW main library. Students are also encouraged to check the UNSW Library's Theatre and Performance Subject Guide: <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/arts/theatref>

For further study resources, see also the UNSW Library's Study page:
<https://www.library.unsw.edu.au/study>

Course Evaluation and Development

We welcome constructive feedback – especially written feedback (emails, notes etc.) on the course content, structure and assessment methods – not only at the conclusion of the course, but also as we go along. At the end of the course we will invite you to provide feedback using UNSW's course experience survey.

Many aspects of this course are the result of innovative student feedback from previous years. For example, the number and genre of case studies in this course has been changed in response to student feedback.

Submission of 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

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