



# ARTS2121

Theatre in Our Times

Term One // 2021

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Caroline Wake	c.wake@unsw.edu.au	Wednesday 2-4pm; other times by appointment	Room 246E, Level 2, Robert Webster	9385 0720

#### Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Meg Mumford	m.mumford@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Room 112, Level 1, Robert Webster	9385 4865

#### 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

School of the Arts and Media

Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building (G14)

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

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Website: [www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam](http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam)

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. Analyse and experiment with contemporary performance approaches to text, space, time, performing and spectating.

### **Teaching Strategies**

This course uses a combination of lectures with screenings, tutorials, and a facilitated creative process and presentation. Lectures introduce theoretical frameworks and theatrical works. Tutorials discuss these and facilitate practical exercises. Students are also expected to work outside of class time, reading, watching videos, planning practical activities, and attending performances.

## 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 one 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](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 Plan	20%	12/03/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Essay	50%	02/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Group Performance	30%	21/04/2021 11:00 AM	1, 2

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Essay Plan

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 500-800 words

**Details:**

Individual

500-800 words

Students identify key frameworks and case studies in preparation for Assessment 2

20-percent

Feedback via LMS

**Additional details:**

The Essay Plan should be approximately 1 x A4 page, 1.5 spaced, and in a clear 11 or 12-point font. It should clarify the following:

(1) which of the two 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 three readings in addition to the course's mandatory and recommended readings that you believe will be relevant to your essay.

For further information, please see Moodle.

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

**Assessment 2: Essay**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2,000-2,500 words

**Details:**

Individual

2,000-2,200 words

Students compare, contrast, and analyse key performance case studies

50-percent

Feedback via LMS

**Additional details:**

The Major Essay (2,000-2,500 words) is to be submitted via Turnitin by Friday, 2 April 2021 in Week 7 and is weighted at 50 percent. You will receive formative and summative feedback via Turnitin within two weeks of submission.

You must select **\*one\*** of the following two 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 a specific strand of feminism); postcolonialism or decolonialism; posthumanism.

**OR:** Write an analysis of TWO of the Case Studies with reference to ONE of the following critical perspectives: feminism (or a specific strand of feminism); postcolonialism or decolonialism; posthumanism.

For further information, please see Moodle.

**Submission notes:** Please see Moodle

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

**Assessment 3: Group Performance**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Group

Word length/Duration: 10 minutes

Students conceive, devise, and deliver a short performance

30-percent

Feedback via LMS.

**Additional details:**

This group performance takes place during the lecture slot in Week 10, i.e. on Wednesday, 21 April 2021, from 11am to 1pm.

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, please see Moodle.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

## 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 3.

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure they either log on to Zoom (for the lecture) or sign the class roll (for the tutorial). 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 (Weeks 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: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Wed 17 March, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake  Theatre in Our Times: Practice & Theory
	Tutorial	Thurs 18 Feb, 12-2pm, Webster 332  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: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Wed 24 Feb, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake  Feminism: Theory
	Tutorial	Thurs 25 Feb, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing readings; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	Wed 3 March, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake  Feminism: Case Studies
	Tutorial	Thurs 4 March, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 4: 8 March - 12	Lecture	Wed 10 March, 11am-1pm, Online

March		Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake Post- and De-colonialism: Theory
	Tutorial	Thurs 11 March, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing readings; one hour of performance exercises.
	Assessment	<b>Assessment 1, Essay Plan</b>  Due via Turnitin by 11:59pm on Fri 12 March in Week 4
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Wed 17 March, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake Post- and De-colonialism: Case Studies
	Tutorial	Thurs 18 March, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	Week 6 is Flex Week, i.e. there are no lectures or tutorials. Use the time to catch up on readings, finish that essay, and dream up some outlandish ideas for your final performance!
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	Wed 31 March, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake Posthumanism: Theory
	Tutorial	Thurs 1 April, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises.
	Assessment	<b>Assessment 2 Essay (50%)</b>  Due via Turnitin by 11:59pm on Fri 2 April in Week 7
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	Wed 7 April, 11am-1pm, Online  Lecturer: Dr Caroline Wake Posthumanism: Case Studies
	Reading	Thurs 8 April, 12-2pm, Webster 332  One hour discussing performance case studies; one hour of performance exercises
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Studio	Wed 14 April, 11am-1pm, venues tbc  Facilitators: Dr Meg Mumford

		Rehearsal for Group Performance
	Studio	Thurs 15 April, 12-2pm, Webster 332
		Rehearsal for Group Performance
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Assessment	Wed 21 April, 11am-1pm, venue tbc  Facilitators: Dr Meg Mumford and Dr Caroline Wake
	Tutorial	Thurs 22 April, 12-2pm, Webster 332  Discussion of group performances and feedback forum on ARTS2121 course

## 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 not only at the conclusion of the course, but also as we go along. Please feel free to email the course convenor, Dr Caroline Wake ([c.wake@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.wake@unsw.edu.au)) with problems, suggestions and ideas any time. 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**

### **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](mailto: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**

UNSW Theatre and Performance

## **CRICOS**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

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