ARTS3122
Program and Repertoire

Semester 2, 2013
Course Administrative Details

Course Coordinator
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If I need to contact you I will use your student email account (the one with the format z[student_number]@student.unsw.edu.au). If you do not use this account then make sure that you set it to redirect mail to the account that you do use.

This Course Outline is available on the School's website and also on Blackboard.

Course information

The course is based on the UNSW Guidelines on Learning, which may be consulted at www.guidelinesonlearning.unsw.edu.au. In particular it places emphasis on the guidelines that refer to active engagement, contextualising, inclusivity and co-operation in learning. The course offers a range of different learning activities, both across the course and within the tutorial/workshops.

The course is worth 6 units of credit towards your degree.

This is the Capstone Course for a major in Theatre and Performance Studies.

Course Description

Based on an extended research project, this course invites students to reflect on their undergraduate program and to consider the social, ethical and practical state of the industries in the performing arts that they might be about to enter. After an introductory industry orientation program, students will work independently on supervised research projects in which they will plan seasons
and/or curate performance programs for the arts organisations they are researching.

Aims of this course

The course aims to consolidate students' undergraduate learning in the Theatre and Performing Arts major and to encourage students to reflect on it and to apply it to a research project that will bring them in contact with the performing arts industries.
1. Give students a basic knowledge of Australian theatre and performing arts, and of the social, ethical and cultural contexts of its production and consumption
2. Promote a broad understanding of the theatrical practices, styles and conventions of Australian theatre and performing arts
3. Introduce students to the critical and analytic reading of important dramatic and theatrical texts and/or performance and/or dance works
4. Provide an opportunity for students to express original ideas in writing and in project presentation in person and online
5. Provide an opportunity for students to develop research and curatorial skills
6. Provide students with an active experience of group discussion, oral presentation of their ideas and online blogging

Learning outcomes from this course

1. demonstrate a knowledge of Australian theatre and performing arts and of the social, ethical and cultural contexts of its production and consumption
2. demonstrate a broad understanding of the theatrical practices, styles and conventions of Australian theatre and performing arts
3. critically and analytically read important dramatic and theatrical texts and/or performance and/or dance works
4. express original ideas in writing and in project presentations in person and online
5. demonstrate research and curation skills
6. discuss ideas orally in group discussion and in online blogging

Graduate outcomes from the Theatre and Performance Studies Major

1. the ability to analyse theatre and performance as social signifying practices
2. the knowledge and understanding of theories and critical languages and the ability to apply them to the discussion of theatre and cultural performance
3. the capacity to observe and participate in performance in a self-aware and creative manner, and to use performance vocabularies, skills, structures and working methods
4. the ability and skills required to analyse and interpret written texts, and to effect thoughtful, imaginative transitions from the page to the performance space
5. the skills required to negotiate group-devised research and performance projects, and to ethically manage relations within the group and between performers and spectators
6. the ability to identify and interpret the cultural frameworks that surround performance events and to take these into account when interpreting and/or creating performances
7. the knowledge and capacity to discuss and debate the relevance of live art in the contemporary information age
8. the capacity to engage with and merge different theories and paradigms of knowledge from a variety of scholarly disciplines
9. the skills involved in a variety of verbal, written, and performative modes of public communication
10. the ability to read texts with critical and historical awareness and to produce coherent written work with appropriate scholarly conventions
11. the capacity to pursue an independent line of investigation through analytical and creative practice
12. the ability to carry out self-directed management of learning, time and resources

1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 11 and 12 are measured by all activities and assessment tasks. 5, 6, 7 are measured by the Weekly blog and Research Reports. 10 is measured by the Research Proposal and Research Report

Teaching Strategies and Rationale

This course places an emphasis on complex critical and cultural thinking, with the aim to enhance the students' capacity for analytical excellence. It is also designed to deepen their level of engagement with its range of historical, artistic, political and social texts and questions. The focus on the Australian theatre and performing arts industries is also intended to broaden the students' understanding of their own culture and of the Australian performing arts, and to provide a learning and research experience that will prepare them for future employment.

The modes of delivery are a weekly 2-hour workshop in which the individual projects are shared, discussed and compared; and additional online discussion. These are designed to encourage the combination of conceptual and embodied understanding that is characteristic of the students' main object of study, theatre and performance. The workshop group or groups may be further subdivided into smaller groups of 4-5 according to the area of each student's individual research project. This subdivision will be reflected in the online blogging groups.
To pass this course you are required to attend at least 80% of lecture/presentations and tutorials. If you do not meet the minimum attendance requirement for any reason you may be refused final examination and you may fail the course. Attendance at lecture/presentations and tutorials will be recorded. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you are deemed not to have attended. It is your responsibility to ensure your name has been marked off at each class.

If you experience a prolonged illness or misadventure that prevents you from meeting the 80% attendance requirement you should contact your course convenor immediately. You may be advised to withdraw from the course.

**Assessment**

In order to pass this course, you must make a serious attempt at ALL assessment tasks.

**Late Penalties**

If your assignment is submitted after the due date, a penalty of 3% per day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) will be imposed for up to 2 weeks. For example, if you are given a mark of 72 out of 100 for an essay, and your essay were handed in two days late, it would attract a penalty of 6% and the mark would be reduced to 66%. If the same essay were handed in seven days late (i.e. a penalty of 21%) it would receive a mark of 51%. If your assignment is not submitted within 2 weeks of its due date, it will receive 0 marks. Late work will not receive detailed feedback.

**Summary of Assessment Tasks:**

1. Curatorial/programming project proposal 20%
2. Weekly reports (6 x 400 words) 40%
3. Curatorial/programming project 40%

**Detail of Assessment Tasks:**

1. **Curatorial/programming project proposal** (20%)

   **Due Thursday August 29 (Week 5)**

   1000 words
Your proposal for the season or festival that you will be researching – including a statement of the artistic vision you have for it, and a brief consideration of the practical logistics.

Assessment criteria: In this proposal you are expected to demonstrate:

- a clearly articulated vision for what your season/festival plans to achieve, and the audience it is aimed at
- a brief outline of the relevant practical considerations
- an indication of the sources from which you will draw your plays, performances and/or events

2. Weekly reports 40%)

Due weekly from Weeks 6-11

6 x 400 words

[All outcomes assessed.]

Your ongoing analytical and evaluative assessment of playtexts or live art/theatre case studies

Assessment criteria: You will be assessed on:

- Content – your understanding of the playtext/performance work and its context
- Critical approach – level of analysis and engagement with the playtext/performance work as a source for contemporary theatre practice
- Structure – organisation of your report in a clear and accessible way
- Style – fluent clear and concise writing and/or use of audiovisual material

3. Curatorial/programming project (40%)

Due Thursday October 31 (Week 13)

2,500 words or equivalent

[Related learning outcome 6, Outcomes assessed 1,2,3,4,5]

The form of this is dependant on the exact nature of the research task proposed in Assessment #1, but it may take the form of a report, website, etc.

This is a report on the final season/festival you have selected, with an overview and a commentary on the plays/performance works you have chosen, brief comments on the works you considered but rejected, and a discussion of your choice and how it fits in with your artistic vision and the logistical considerations that you outlined in Assessment #1.
Assessment criteria: In this report you are expected to demonstrate:

- a knowledge of the plays/performance works and of the broad historical, social and cultural contexts within which they were first created
- an understanding of contemporary theatre practice, styles and performance conventions
- a vision for how the plays/performance works might be produced so as to set up a dialogue with contemporary audiences
- some practical understanding of the constraints within which modern performance companies/ festivals operate

You will be assessed on:
- Content – your understanding of the plays/performance works and their context
- Critical approach – level of analysis and engagement with the plays/performance works as a source for contemporary theatre practice
- Structure – organisation of your report in a clear and accessible way
- Style – fluent clear and concise writing and use of audiovisual material

Course Outline

[Note: This is a Level 3 seminar course so there is no lecture in Week 1. The seminars begin in Week 2 (your class is on August 8) and end in Week 13 (your class is on October 31).

There will be set readings and/or websites for each week, to be determined weekly, according to the interest of the class. Each of you will be responsible for setting one of these after Week 5.

Week 2 (August 8) Introduction

Overview of the practical considerations of repertoire/festival selection in contemporary theatre, and of the theoretical issues that inform such decisions. Issues of: audience; historical, political and cultural context; form, style and convention. Preliminary choice of project

Weeks 3-5 Introductory Industry Orientations: Theatre, Dance, Festivals

Weeks 6-11 Finding the works

During these 7 weeks you must research for your season/festival – by reading playscripts, finding performance and/or dance works and reporting on them online and/or in class. You must post online or distribute at the beginning of the class a written report (about 400 words) so that everyone has by the end
of Week 11 a complete set of notes about the works under consideration. Be prepared to talk about your choice in class discussion.

Weeks 12-13

These weeks are devoted to individual and/or group presentations of your final season and/or festival program.

Essential information for all Students

You must access and read the information on ‘Essential Information for SAM students’ and the ‘SAM assessment policy’ on the School’s website:

https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/

It contains vital information on submission of assignments, extensions policy, writing support services, referencing, student misconduct and plagiarism. If something is in this document then you are assumed to know it.