



COURSE OUTLINE

DRA102

Exploring Twentieth Century Theatre

Course Coordinator: Carl Walling (cwalling@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this highly practical course you will develop an understanding of the key movements of twentieth century theatre through workshops, performances and research. You will develop knowledge of the history, rationale and philosophies behind these theatrical movements and will explore relevant performance techniques. The movements to be explored may include Realism, Symbolism, Epic Theatre and Theatre of the Absurd. This course will combine theory and practice with a focus on building skills in performance and workshop facilitation.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – In-class tutorial	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Throughout the semester *DRA 102: Exploring Twentieth Century Theatre* students will:

- Explore key dramatic works during the twentieth century's realism and antirealism theatrical movements.
- Investigate historical linkages across society, culture, and artistic practice.
- Build interpretative artistic skills through in-class activations of dramatic literature.
- Communicate connections to modern society through a practical realization of the Living Newspaper aesthetic.
- Develop a better understanding of postmodernist theatre practice.

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Communicate knowledge of Twentieth Century Theatre forms	Knowledgeable
2	Analyse a play text in relation to its historical, social and political context	Creative and critical thinker
3	Plan, research, create and share a short performance demonstrating a contemporary activation of a specific Twentieth Century performance form	Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

DRA302

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Competent English language skills for oral and written work.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In week 4, you will present in-class an early draft of your Group Creative Performance for instructor feedback.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Creative Performance	Group	35%	5-6 minutes	Week 5	In Class
All	2	Essay	Individual	35%	1000-1200 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Essay	Individual	30%	1000 - 1500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Group Performance - The Living Newspaper

GOAL:	As a developing theatre practitioner, in this task you will enhance your performance skills by realising a historic performance style.	
PRODUCT:	Creative Performance	
FORMAT:	You will perform a well-rehearsed five minute performance based on the Living Newspaper techniques brought forward by the Federal Theatre Project during the Great Depression in 1930's America. Though this assessment task, your group will explore how this movement responded to other early twentieth century theatre styles across the globe. Each group will select a prominent Australian news story during 2021 and then transform your research into a short five minute performance. In Week 4, your group will perform an early draft of this assignment for instructor feedback. Further information about this task will be provided on Blackboard.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Realisation of performance style 3
	2	Ensemble skills 3
	3	Overall polish of presentation 3
	4	Dramatic meaning in historical context 2

All - Assessment Task 2: Essay - Connecting Author to Play-Text

GOAL:	Theatre practitioners analyse a play-text in relation to its historical, social and political context.	
PRODUCT:	Essay	
FORMAT:	For this assignment, you must choose one of the pre-selected play and playwright combinations. The resulting essay will analyse the play in relation to its societal and artistic context. The essay will build from the course's set readings, the play-text and your own research. Further information will be provided in lectures and on Blackboard.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Understanding of the playwright's historical, social and political context 2
	2	Analysis of the play's characters, plot and themes in relation to the dramatic work's historical, social and political context 2
	3	Written communication skills and referencing 1
	4	Comprehension of the playwright's theatrical aesthetics 1

All - Assessment Task 3: Essay - Twentieth Century Theatre Movements

GOAL:	Theatre practitioners can express critical principles of twentieth-century theatre styles, which can in-turn influence their own interpretative work.	
PRODUCT:	Essay	
FORMAT:	An open-resource, essay based examination focused on the course's readings and workshops. You will craft a written response to two essay questions from a pool of three options provided by the end of Week 11. For each selected essay question, you will demonstrate your comprehension of the entire course's dramatic literature, your ability to contrast various artistic approaches to key ideas in society, and contextualise the various performance aesthetics found in modernist and postmodernist practice. Further information will be provided during in-class workshops and on Blackboard.	

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Distinguishing key features of specific twentieth century theatre styles. 1
	2	Comprehension of a theatrical style or movement's critical tenants through specific examples found in the course's dramatic literature. 2
	3	Written communication skills 1
	4	Clear and accurate analysis of the dramatic literature's plot, characters, and thematic elements. 2

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Students are recommended to wear loose, comfortable clothing suitable for drama workshop activities.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au