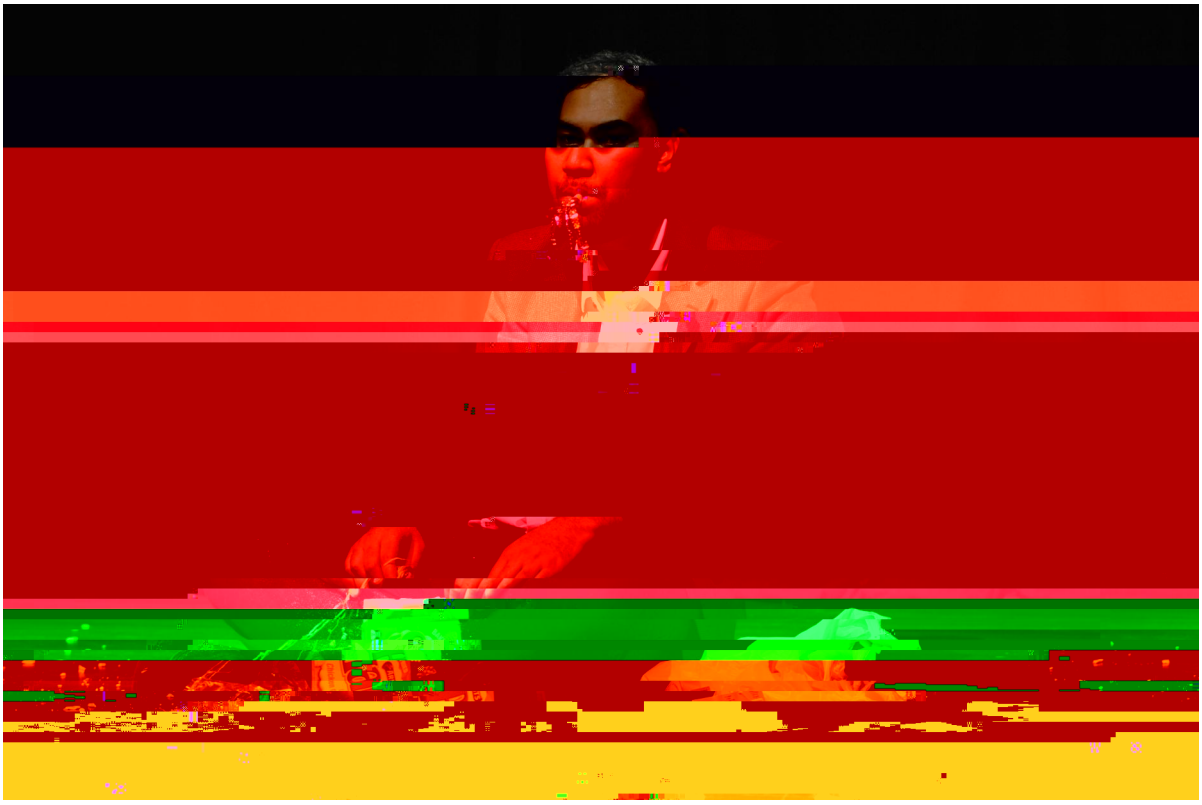

ARTS2121

Theatre in Our Times

Term One // 2021

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

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 B[7] om 312, Level 3, Robert Webster B Io Myers

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):

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

The *Dsjj Esybc* 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	

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	Assessment 1, Essay Plan 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	Assessment 2 Essay (50%) 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 Group Performance Presentations
	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) 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 . 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

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:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
-

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
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