

COURSE PACK 2018

DRAMA 100/100G PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE SKILLS: TAKING THE STAGE

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Office: Arts 1 (Humanities Building), Room 611

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm; Fridays 2-4pm; or by appointment.

Welcome to the course.

Theatrical performance requires dynamic presence, effective communication and creative thinking. In "Taking the Stage" you will develop skills in theatrical performance that are transferable to a wide-range of disciplines including: effective oral communication and developing presentations with impact, stage presence, the ability to work collaboratively within a group, and creative problem solving. We will focus on three main areas: public speaking; acting and inhabiting a character; and devised group performance.

Learning Outcomes

Our course aims are:

- To enhance your appreciation of effective public speaking
- To improve your confidence in public performance
- To develop your understanding of vocal and physical skills that underlie effective performance
- To provide you with the skills to work effectively in a team
- To develop your potential to make dynamic creative presentations

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Use the vocal and physical skills you have learned to deliver an effective oral presentation (LO1)
- Apply acting techniques to develop stage presence and listening skills (LO2)
- Apply improvisation and devising techniques in the development of dynamic and creative group presentations (LO3)
- Apply ideas and approaches learned in the course to deliver an effective oral presentation that incorporates dynamic audio visual elements (LO4)

Topics Covered

Theory and practice will be divided between the lectures and workshops. The weekly one-hour lecture will draw on a lively range of examples to analyse the dynamics of effective performance. Lectures are complemented by the two-hour practical workshop in the Drama Studio, where you will explore different exercises and develop your skills 'on the floor'.

The paper is divided into three modules:

1. Public speaking
2. Acting
3. Devising

Public speaking

Public speaking requires the ability of the speaker to capture the attention of audience members in order to convey a message and convince them of the merits of your argument. You will learn to identify the characteristics of effective public speaking and deliver an oral address informed by an understanding of successful presentation skills. Class work will focus on vocal delivery, physicality and storytelling.

Acting

Working in pairs, students will apply the basic presentation skills they learned in the first module to working with others. Acting requires concentrated listening and effective teamwork. In this module students will develop the core interpersonal skills that underlie the practice of acting. Classwork will focus on the creative dimensions of acting including theatre games, and will prepare them for the final section of the course and major in-class presentation.

Devising

The final module of the course builds upon the skills developed in speaking and acting and applies them to the creation of a 5-minute original devised theatre performance. Responding to current topical issues, students will work in groups using theatrical skills to devise a short work that communicates a creative response to the given theme. This final module will integrate the creative communication skills learnt across the course and apply them to developing an effective group performance.

Method of teaching and contact hours

Teaching will be primarily through weekly lectures and workshops, supplemented by independent reading, group rehearsals, and viewing of performance recordings.

Weekly lectures: 12 hours (1 x 1-hour lecture per week)

Compulsory weekly workshops: 24 hours (1 x 2-hour workshop per week)

Independent reading and viewing: 2 hours per week

Assessment one: 12.5 hours

Assessment two: 15 hours (including rehearsal)

Assessment three: 12.5 hours (including rehearsal)

Assessment four: 25 hours (including rehearsal)

Assessment five: 25 hours

Lecture:

Mondays 10-11am (OGGB Business School, 260-073)

Workshop Groups:

Mondays 12-2pm

Tuesdays 3-5pm

Wednesdays 9-11am

Wednesdays 12-2pm

Wednesdays 3-5pm

Thursdays 3-5pm

Fridays 9-11am

Fridays 12-2pm

All workshops are in the **Drama Studio** (Level 3 of the Arts 1 Humanities Building, room 206-325)

Assessment

The course will be assessed by way of:

1. Speech Analysis: 15% (LO1)
2. Speech Presentation: 15% (LO1)
3. Acting: Dramatic Scene 10% (LO2)
4. Devised Performance: 30% (LO3)
5. Final Presentation (Audio & Slides): 30% (LO4)

ASSIGNMENT ONE: Speech Analysis: 15% (LO1)

Due by 4pm, Friday 10th August

In this first assignment you will provide a 900 word analysis of the rhetorical structure and persuasive power of a given speech (selected speeches are provided as a video link via the reading list page). You will be asked to consider the speech's content and delivery.

The purpose of the assignment is to get you thinking about the foundational elements of successful oral communication, in preparation for your own speech in assignment 2.

You will be required to hand in a paper copy of your analysis to the Arts Assignment Centre (Level 4 of the Social Sciences Building, 201E-413), as well as upload an electronic version to Turnitin through Canvas.

Criteria:

- How effectively you are able to identify the structural and rhetorical elements of the speech that make it successful (or unsuccessful)
- How effectively you are able to identify the performance elements of the speech that make it successful (or unsuccessful), for example, intonation, body language
- Presentation of short analysis (structure, grammar, thesis etc.)

ASSIGNMENT TWO: Speech Presentation: This Matters 15% (LO1)

You will prepare and deliver a short 3-minute speech on the idea of "This Matters". This is your opportunity to take the stage and convince your fellow students of the importance of a specific topic of your choice: Why does it matter to you, and why should it matter to us?

Speeches will be presented during your usual weekly workshop time in Week 5.

You will also need to bring a rough draft of your speech to work with in your weekly workshop Week 3.

Criteria:

- Effectiveness of use of your use of voice, body language and eye contact to engage the audience
- Professionalism of the presentation, including preparedness
- How effectively you are able to succinctly communicate the key points of interest related to your topic
- Originality of approach to the topic and delivery

ASSIGNMENT THREE: Acting: Dramatic Scene 10% (LO2)

You will work in pairs to rehearse and perform a dramatic scene that you will select from our prescribed text *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill.

The purpose of the assignment is to develop your physical and vocal skills by applying them to a script and character. By acting opposite a scene partner, you will also demonstrate your skills in listening and responding. Additionally, you will use skills in critical directorial skills in scene

interpretation and staging. You may choose to incorporate staging elements such as costume, props and music into your presentation.

Scenes will be presented during your usual weekly workshop time in Week 8

You will receive an individual grade for your performance and professionalism. Attendance in workshops in weeks 6 + 7 will be taken into account.

Note on the text: Most scenes in the play are for two actors. The script does not specify characters or which actor should take which lines. It will be your task to choose ONE scene from the play and dramatically interpret it. You will determine the line allocations, given circumstances (setting, scenario, etc), characters and objectives. Be bold and imaginative! (Scene lengths vary. While there are no set time restrictions for this assignment, you will probably want to choose a scene which is half a page or more in length – if in doubt, ask James).

Criteria:

- How effectively you convey the meaning of the given scene
- Ability to convey the character and their objectives
- Professionalism of the presentation
- Overall impact of the scene

ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Devised Performance: 30% (LO3)

You will work in groups of between 4-6 students to devise an original short performance, 10-15 minutes, based on a current topical theme (to be approved by James). The presentation may contain dramatic and/or documentary elements.

The purpose of the group-devised assignment is to allow you to develop your ability to work effectively in a team, and to develop creative original performance outcomes.

Your devised performances will be presented during your usual weekly workshop time in Week 12.

The 30% will be divided between a group mark (20%) and an individual mark (10%). Your attendance in workshops in weeks 9-11 will be taken into account with your individual mark.

Criteria:

- How effectively the dialectics of the chosen topical theme are explored and communicated
- How effectively the creative choices made increase the impact of the presentation
- Professionalism of the presentation
- Originality of approach to the topic and the clarity of its purpose
- Your individual contribution as a collaborator to the success of the group's performance

ASSIGNMENT FIVE: Final Presentation (Audio & Slides): 30% (LO4)

For your final assignment, you will record and submit an audio and slide presentation. You will create a 5-minute spoken 'voice over' and accompanying slide presentation that demonstrates your knowledge of an aspect of the course.

Alternatively, you choose to film yourself on camera as a presenter and edit this footage together with the slides.

Instructions will be provided on how to record your audio and slide presentation (a room will also be available on campus). The resulting media file will be submitted to Canvas.

The purpose of the final assignment is to consolidate the skills and knowledge you have learnt throughout the course, and to put these towards creating an impactful presentation.

For your presentation, you may choose from the following topics:

- How to give an effective presentation
- Caryl's Churchill *Love & Information* (eg: Critical discussion, directorial concept)
- Acting: How to approach a role
- Devised Theatre: A how-to guide

This is due by 11:59pm on Wednesday 24 October, via Canvas.

Criteria:

- Strength and clarity of the content and communication of the topic
- Effectiveness of the storytelling
- Integration of spoken and visual elements
- Vocal/presentational skills
- Originality and overall impact

Extensions & Penalties for late submission of assignments

You should submit your work on time. In extreme circumstances, such as illness, you may seek an extension but you may be required to provide supporting information before the assignment is due. Late assignments without a pre-approved extension may be penalised by loss of marks.

Plagiarism:

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting his or her learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the world-wide web. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection mechanisms.