

TH114-30 Theatre and Performance in Context

24/25

Department

SCAPVC - Theatre and Performance Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Credit value

30

Module duration

27 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

Description

Introductory description

n/a.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

In this module students will explore the inter-related disciplines of theatre and performance, considering some of the key conceptual and artistic frameworks that have shaped the fields. Throughout the module students will engage with the sociopolitical and historical contexts that have informed these frameworks and the ways in which theatre and performance not only reflects, but also seeks to change and shape, society. The module therefore aims to:

- Equip students with a broad understanding of the key issues and theoretical concepts underpinning the study of theatre and performance
- Investigate how theatre and performance can inform understandings of wider society, including politics, cultures, identities
- Explore the sociopolitical and cultural contexts in which particular theatre and performance events and practices emerged
- Examine how politics and culture intersect with the study of theatre and performance

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Intro session 1: What is Theatre Studies?

Intro session 2: What is Performance Studies?

Gender Identities 1: The Fight for Women's Suffrage – On Stage and On the Street

Gender Identities 2: Third and Fourth Wave Feminism in Performance: Riot Grrrl, #MeToo and Feminist Adaptation

Gender Identities 3: Performing Masculinities

Gender Identities 4: Precious - Race, Gender, Class and Body Size

Queer Interventions 1: Hidden Sexuality - Queering the Theatrical Past, from the Molly Houses to Oscar Wilde

Queer Interventions 2: An Unhappy Archive - HIV, Aids & Tragic Queer Love Stories

Queer Interventions 3: Split Britches - Lesbian Feminist Theatre

Queer Interventions 4: Performing Trans and Non-Binary Identities

Race Matters 1: Empire, Race and Nation on the Nineteenth Century Stage

Race Matters 2: Shakespeare and Race

Race Matters 3: Caste, Hindutva and Decolonization

Race Matters 4: Ethnographic Display: Guillermo Gomez Pena and Coco Fusco's The Couple in the Cage

Class Politics 1: Wish List - Staging precarity in the neoliberal present

Class Politics 2: Staging Grenfell

Class Politics 3: Performing Migration

Class Politics 4: Performing Protest in Hong Kong

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an increased awareness of the sociopolitical and historical contexts against which key events, practices or movements in theatre and performance have taken place
- Position their analyses of theatre and performance events in terms of their sociopolitical and historical contexts and significance
- Utilise their increased understanding of how wider society shapes, and is shaped by, theatre and performance to consider the significance and value of art to society
- Draw on a range of conceptual and artistic frameworks to interrogate theatre and performance
- Independently draw on relevant theories to research theatre and performance, presenting their findings using appropriate academic conventions

Indicative reading list

Bial, H. (Ed.) (2007) The Performance Studies Reader, Abingdon, Routledge.

Fisher et al. (2016) Theatre Histories: An Introduction, London, Routledge.

Mangan, M. (2013) The Drama, Theatre and Performance Companion, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.

Reynolds, B. (2014) Performance Studies: Key Words, Concepts and Theories, Red Globe.

Schechner, R. (2013) Performance Studies: An Introduction, London, Routledge.

Shepherd, S. (2016) The Cambridge Introduction to Performance Theory, Cambridge, CUP.

Journals:

Contemporary Theatre Review, New Theatre Quarterly, Studies in Theatre and Performance, Performance Research

Research element

Interdisciplinary

International

Subject specific skills

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an increased awareness of the sociopolitical and historical contexts against which key events, practices or movements in theatre and performance have taken place
- Position their analyses of theatre and performance events in terms of their sociopolitical and historical contexts and significance
- Utilise their increased understanding of how wider society shapes, and is shaped by, theatre and performance to consider the significance and value of art to society
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Transferable skills

- Independent writing and research skills
 - Skills in developing and presenting research and information
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (26%)
Seminars	22 sessions of 2 hours (63%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Project supervision	3 sessions of 30 minutes (1%)
Fieldwork	10 sessions of (0%)
Other activity	4 hours 30 minutes (6%)
Total	70 hours

Private study description

- Reading for each lecture
- Reading for each seminar
- Independent research for assessments (in particular final assessment)

Other activity description

Group tutorials: 3 x 1.5 hour research poster presentation sessions in seminar groups

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000 word timed task (Autumn Term)	10%		Yes (extension)
Students set a range of questions to respond to with a week deadline			
10 mins research poster (Summer Term)	40%		Yes (extension)
10 mins Research poster presentation (summer term)			
2500 word essay (Spring Term)	50%		Yes (extension)
2,500 word essay (spring term)			

Feedback on assessment

Formative 1,000 word written task: 30 mins oral feedback and written feedback in autumn

term\r\nWritten feedback on 2,500 word essay in spring term\r\nWritten feedback on research poster presentation in summer term\r\n

Availability

Pre-requisites

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 1 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- Year 1 of UHPA-R4W4 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
- Year 1 of ULNA-R3WA Undergraduate Italian and Theatre Studies
- Year 1 of UTHA-W421 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies
- Year 1 of UTHA-W422 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 1 of UIPA-W4L8 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 1 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies