

# EN9A7-30 Drama and Performance Theory

**26/27**

**Department**

English and Comparative Literary Studies

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Stephen Purcell

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

EN9A7-30 Drama and Performance Theory

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

This module has been written to be a theoretical core course underpinning the MA pathway Shakespeare and the British Dramatic Tradition. The aim of this module is to introduce students to drama and performance theory, by giving them the opportunity to explore and discuss some of the methodologies, debates and conceptual approaches to drama and performance, both current and historical. It will encourage students to consider these methodologies when reading primary material, and to this end five key primary texts are allotted for the module which will encourage dialectical consideration of theory and practice. There will normally be a tie-in theatre trip late in the course.

### 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.

Weeks 1 and 2 (Dr Stephen Purcell): Theatre and audience. Introductory session on 'making sense of the stage', briefly introducing all of the approaches covered on the course; a second session on spectatorship. Reading: Brecht, Brook, Blau, Boal, Rancière, Eco

Weeks 3 and 4 (Dr Teresa Grant): Theatre as structure. We will consider tragic form, comic form, plot, liturgy, ritual. Reading: a selection of classical and neo-classical dramatic theory, Northrop Frye, Schechner, Turner

Weeks 5 and 6: Theatre and embodiment (Dr Elizabeth Barry; Dr Nicholas Monk; Dr Jonathan Heron): the body and performativity, gender, identity, cognitive science, phenomenology. Readings: Butler, McConachie, Fensham, States, Phelan

Week 7: Theatre as text (Dr Elizabeth Barry; Dr Stephen Purcell): semiotics, structuralism, post-structuralism. Reading: Barthes, Derrida, Elam, Carlson

Weeks 8, 9, 10: Theatre in context (Dr Teresa Grant; Dr Paul Prescott): historical context, culture and power, new historicism, cultural materialism, theatrical events, theatre audiences, framing, space. Reading: Foucault, Bourdieu, Eagleton, Greenblatt, Bennett, Lefebvre

There will be a tie-in theatre trip during the last part of the course, play depending on the RSC current repertoire.

## Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of critical writing on drama, theatre and performance
- Interrogate conceptual approaches by means of primary texts and vice versa
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of drama and performance methodology in theory and practice
- Demonstrate and understanding of the historical trajectory of drama and performance theory

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

## Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

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## Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (7%)
Private study	280 hours (93%)
Total	300 hours

## Private study description

Reading & research

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
<b>Assessment component</b>			
6,000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
<b>Reassessment component is the same</b>			

## Feedback on assessment

Individual consultation with tutors, email

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## Availability

## Courses

This module is Core for:

- TENA-Q3PE Postgraduate Taught English and Drama
  - Year 1 of Q3PE English and Drama
  - Year 1 of Q3PE English and Drama
  - Year 2 of Q3PE English and Drama

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TENA-Q3P1 Postgraduate Taught English Literature

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TENS-Q2PE MA World Literature
- TENA-Q3PD Postgraduate Taught Critical and Cultural Theory
  - Year 1 of Q3PD Critical and Cultural Theory
  - Year 1 of Q3PD Critical and Cultural Theory
- Year 1 of TRSA-V1PF Postgraduate Taught Culture of the European Renaissance
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3P1 Postgraduate Taught English Literature
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3PE Postgraduate Taught English and Drama
- TENA-Q3PK Postgraduate Taught Environmental Humanities
  - Year 1 of Q3PK Environmental Humanities
  - Year 2 of Q3PK Environmental Humanities

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of TENA-Q3PD Postgraduate Taught Critical and Cultural Theory

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PN Postgraduate Taught Philosophy and the Arts