

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Contemporary Theatre and Theory
2	Module Credits	40
3	Module Level	5
4	Module Code	EGL5045

5	Module Overview
<p>This module will provide you with critical understanding of contemporary Western theatre, and the skills to analyse it through literary theory drawn from fields such as psychoanalysis, gender studies and postmodernism. You will study a range of plays that have premiered in the UK since 1968 – the year in which theatre censorship was abolished – and each drama will be paired with a related theoretical text. By evaluating relationships between theatre and theory, you will acquire interdisciplinary knowledge and learn to apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of plays.</p> <p>You will be taught through a series of lectures, seminars and workshops in which you will apply and consolidate your knowledge. Learning activities will typically include: close readings of texts, group debates, small-scale presentations, practical explorations of plays, and theatre trips. As an independent learner, you will contribute towards researching and selecting a play of which all students on the module will see a performance and study as a core text. You will also be encouraged to establish play-reading groups and a student-led online platform to exchange ideas and critical reflections. Your taught sessions will be supported by learning activities, such as research and writing tasks that you will access via Moodle. Informal feedback on these will be given to inform your approach to assessments.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>Introduction: reading plays, using theory Approaching the dramatic text What can literary and cultural theory do?</p> <p>Theatre and Psychoanalysis: Peter Shaffer's <i>Equus</i> (1973) Theatre and Marxism: Jim Cartwright's <i>The Rise and Fall of Little Voice</i> (1992) Theatre and Semiotics: reading drama, 'reading' performance Feminist Theatre and Masculinities: Timberlake Wertenbaker's <i>After Darwin</i> (1998)</p> <p>Employability Week</p> <p>Assessment 1: Presentation Critical reflections on Assessment 1, including peer review Essay Writing Workshop (Assessment 2)</p> <p>Performance and Performativity: Phyllis Nagy's <i>The Strip</i> (1995) Theatre and Post-Colonialism: Roy Williams' <i>Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads</i> (2002)</p> <p>Theatre or Post-Theatre? Postmodern Representation: Martin Crimp's <i>Attempts on Her Life</i> (1997) Tutorials</p>	

7	Module Learning Outcomes	
	On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:	
	1	Design and deliver a critical, creative presentation as a collaborative project.
	2	Illustrate and evaluate relationships between contemporary theatre and literary theory.
	3	Examine and discuss contemporary plays as performance texts.
	4	Apply literary theory to independent analyses and interpretations of contemporary theatre.

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1-4	X		X

9	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities		Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable		36
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE		200
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams		164
Total Study Hours:		400