

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	Performance and Theatre Arts
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	4
<b>Course Title:</b>	The Play's the Thing
<b>Course Code:</b>	THR 4200
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr. Michael Barclay
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	33
Theatre Visits:	12
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

Introduces concepts concerning the relationship between performance and human cultures. Different types of theatrical genres are examined and skills in forming critical judgments are developed. Attendance at various performances in Greater London are an important aspect of this course.

### **Prerequisites: None**

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a wide range of play texts and performance practices and to equip student with the tools to verbally and in writing to analyse drama as text and in performance.

**Programme Outcomes:**

4A(i), 4A(ii), 4B(ii), 4C(i), 4C(iii), 4D(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the cultural and political contexts of specific plays, and an awareness of current debates and theories in contemporary theatre studies.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse a range of texts and their critical applications within specific performance traditions.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather information, judge the reliability of sources and communicate effectively in essay form.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a range of information communication technology skills to carry out specific research tasks.

**Indicative Content:**

- The specific historical, political and cultural contexts of selected plays within their appropriate genres
- Theatre visits to see plays in performance
- Basic approaches to analysing the success or failure of a specific performance and appreciating the differences between modes of performance
- The key currents and debates in theatre and the performing arts, specifically in London
- The influence of Berthold Brecht
- The emergence of naturalism and realism

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms for Theatre approved by Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Lectures, theatre visits, classroom discussions, video.

**Bibliography:**

**IndicativeTexts:**

Balme, C. B., *The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre Studies*. Cambridge University Press, 2008

Brown, J. R., ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre*. Oxford University Press, 2001

Fortier, M. ,*Theory/Theatre: An Introduction* London: Routledge (2<sup>nd</sup> ed), 2002

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Updating of Indicative Texts	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of indicative Content	LTPC 30/5/14	