Paper Number:  
139.374

Paper Title:  
Tragedy

Credit Value:  
15 credits

Calendar Prescription:  
A study of tragedy as an enduring cultural concept, showing how it can find expression in dramatic and cinematic forms from Ancient Greece to the present. A selection of plays will be explored through textual analysis, production workshops, and theatrical performance.

Pre and co requisites:  
P any 200-level English paper.

Semester:  
Semester 2

Campus:  
Auckland (Albany)

Mode:  
Internal

E-Learning Category:  
S (web supported)

Paper Coordinator:  
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Timetable (internal only):  
The timetable for lectures, laboratories, and tutorials can be found at http://publictimetable.massey.ac.nz/

Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of the paper, students should be able to:

1. Devise and justify a coherent directorial vision of a tragedy;  
2. Demonstrate an appreciation of the relationship between textual interpretation and the use of theatrical space;  
3. Develop and perform a group interpretation of a play;  
4. Critically reflect on both individual and group creative processes;
5. Develop a coherent, researched essay on a comparative topic;
6. Perform a close textual analysis of a dramatic text;
7. Identify, define, and critically debate concepts central to the genre of tragedy in both ideological and formal contexts.

Major Topics:
This paper considers the contemporary relevance of what George Steiner calls the "strange and complex idea [of re-enacting] private anguish on a public stage". Because the genre of tragedy is preoccupied with the meaning of suffering, fate, and the relationship between the divine and the human worlds, its concerns are closely aligned with the most searching philosophical questions about human existence. By analysing and workshopping the selected plays, we will discuss knowledge and the human limits to it, politics and power (including gender relations), ethics, spirituality, and psychology.

Assessment Proportions:
Internal Assessment : 100%

Description of assessment activities:
Internal assessment:
Tableaux (10%)
Production notes (2 x 10%)
Group performance (20%)
Performance analysis and debrief (10%)
Comparative essay (40%)

Due Dates / Deadlines:
The due dates for assignments (and any other internal assessment components) will be advised at the start of the semester.

Penalties for late assignment submission:
Late assignments will be penalised at a rate of 5 marks per day (including weekends) unless prior arrangements have been made with the paper co-ordinator.

Assignment turnaround:
Not more than two weeks.

Any specific requirements for passing the paper:
It is compulsory to submit a draft of the comparative essay for peer editing in class. The comparative essay must also be submitted through Turnitin as a precaution against plagiarism.

Principal Textbook:
Tourneur/Middleton. The Revenger's Tragedy. [supplied in School Anthology]
Williams, Tennessee. A Streetcar Named Desire.
Shaffer, Peter. *Amadeus*.  
Kouka, Hone. *Waiora*.  
[video viewed in class]

School of Social and Cultural Studies Anthology of critical essays

Texts can be purchased from Bennetts Campus Bookstore. Students who purchase the texts second-hand should attempt to buy the editions listed above for *Oedipus the King* and *Hamlet*.

**Disclaimer:**
The information contained in this paper outline is correct as of 14/10/2009. Any changes will be notified to students at the beginning of the year.