DM250

DRAMA AND THE CHURCH

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name: Drama and the Church

Unit Code: DM250

Awards:
- Bachelor of Education (Middle Years) - Drama minor
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - Drama teaching area
- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - Drama major/minor

This unit is able to be undertaken towards other CHC awards according to course rules and the meeting of prerequisite requirements, as applicable.

Core/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite:
20 credit points of 100-level DM units

Mode: Internal

Delivery/Contact hrs:
- Class contact: 33 hours
- Engagement with unit materials: 44 hours
- Assignment preparation: 63 hours
- Total: 140 hours

Unit Rationale:
The ambivalence of many sections of the Church towards the arts in general has been particularly striking in the area of drama. On the one hand, the Christian Church was in large part responsible for the revival of drama in the Western tradition through the medieval cycle plays. On the other hand, the great age of drama which brought forth Shakespeare was brought to an end by the closing of the theatres by the Puritans in 1642.

The last twenty years has seen a revival of interest in the performing arts within the evangelical denominations. Dramatic performance has become a popular medium for conveying the message of the Gospel in an appealing way for a contemporary audience. Yet, all too often, the effectiveness and artistic integrity of the presentation has been compromised by a lack of understanding of the medium, its possibilities, and its constraints.

The aim of this unit is to prepare students to create and produce Christian drama characterised by artistic integrity and thematic depth, by applying their knowledge of dramatic forms and processes to the demands and constraints of Church-sponsored drama. They will reflect critically on the particular dynamics involved in producing quality drama in a variety of settings, both within and outside of the Church, in order to achieve presentations which are appropriate to and powerful within their contexts.

This unit will also provide students an opportunity to devise their own performance and to experiment with directing a small team towards a specific dramatic outcome. They will also be required to reflect on the staging of their performance and to implement their plans on a limited budget.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Explained the ambivalence of the Church towards drama, and justified its value as a medium for Christian expression.
2. Critically evaluated the possibilities and limitations of drama as a medium for communicating Christian truth.
3. Analysed the demands of particular audiences and contexts, and developed dramatic expressions appropriate to them.
4. Evaluated the potential of drama as a bridge between Church and the wider community.
5. Understood the practical challenges involved in promoting and producing quality drama in a range of Church and community contexts.
6. Performed Christian dramatic presentations characterised by thematic depth and artistic integrity.
7. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Drama and the Christian traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>The dramatic medium and the Christian message - possibilities and limitations</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Analysing audience and context</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Preparing a script</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Rehearsal and direction</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Considerations in promoting and producing Church-based drama</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mask work and puppetry</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Script writing</td>
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Set Text Requirements:


Recommended Readings:


Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication Skills</td>
<td>Students will be graded on their verbal contributions to discussions in class.</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Weeks 1-11</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Written Response (1500 words)</td>
<td>Students will write a brief overview of Drama in the Church. In constructing a response, students will need to draw upon research from a wide range of sources.</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>25%</td>
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| Creative Project (3000 words) | Part One  
Forming: Script writing or adaptation. (At least one original script to be included.)  
Part Two  
Directing/Producing: Organising a performance of your script(s) within a church context(s).  
Part Three  
Performance: Participating in the performance of at least two drama presentations in different church contexts.  
Part Four  
Personal reflection and critical evaluation. | 1-6 | Week 16 | 70% |

**Unit Overview:**

The aim of this unit is to prepare students for the production and presentation of high quality Christian drama that contains artistic integrity, thematic depth, and dramatic forms appropriate for Christian-sponsored plays, so that the message of the Gospel will appeal to a contemporary audience. The course will encourage students to reflect critically on the production of quality drama both inside and outside the Church, and will assist them to devise and produce, within a small team, their own dramatic outcomes.