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 | Australian Drama
---|---
Unit Code | DM290

**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
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**Mode** | Internal
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**Delivery/Contact hrs**
- Class contact | 33 hours
- Engagement with unit materials | 44 hours
- Assignment preparation | 63 hours
- Total | 140 hours

**Unit Rationale**

Drama has long been an important part of the cultural and literary traditions of Australia. From the thriving popular theatre of the nineteenth century to the more experimental forms of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, Australian plays have brought to life the lifestyles, values, myths and social concerns at the heart of Australian culture. This unit seeks to evaluate the achievements of Australian drama by examining a representative selection of Australian plays and playwrights.

On one hand, the historical development of Australian drama will be studied within the wider context of international trends in literature, philosophy (including religion), and the arts; on the other hand, it will also be necessary to analyse the extent to which the characteristics and themes of Australian drama are the product of specifically Australian cultural and social developments. Particular interest will be shown in the ways in which Australian dramatists have sought to illustrate and/or critique the pervading myths of Australian society.

As well as assessing the historical development and thematic content of Australian drama, students will also investigate aspects of dramatic performance and production. Scenes from individual plays may be discussed and acted out in a workshop setting, while students will be asked to evaluate a number of live theatre and/or film dramatisations of Australian plays. In this way, students will gain a greater appreciation of the creative dimensions of dramatic performance.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Identified and understood the distinguishing features of Australian drama.
2. Related the development of Australian drama to international trends in literature, philosophy (including religion) and the arts.
3. Commented on the historical and contemporary place of Australian drama in society.
4. Critically assessed the dramatic representation of Australian values, myths, and mores in individual Australian plays.
5. Discussed and analysed a range of philosophies and techniques of dramatic performance.
6. Planned and implemented a dramatic presentation of a scene from an Australian play.
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>Colonial Theatre; Imported Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vaudeville; Melodrama</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The Cultural Cringe; Review Writing; Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1950s - The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Alternative Theatre; Experimental Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Multicultural and Black Theatre</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Critical Evaluation of an Australian Theatrical Production</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Women in Theatre; Dramaturgy - Understanding the world</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Youth Theatre; Improvisation of a scene based on characters from a selected play</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Directing - Taking Charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rehearsals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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>Critical evaluation (2000 words)</td>
<td>Critical evaluation of an Australian theatrical performance.</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance and Critical Review (Performance - 15 minutes; Review - 1000 words)</td>
<td>Dramatic performance of a scene from an Australian play, with a critical review of personal involvement and performance.</td>
<td>1, 4, 6</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvisation and Critical Review (Improvisation - 5 minutes; Review - 500 words)</td>
<td>Improvisation of a scene based on characters from a selected play, with a critical review of personal involvement and performance.</td>
<td>1, 4, 6</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
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## Unit Overview:

This unit examines Australian Drama as part of the international literary, philosophical, and artistic worlds, and as a uniquely national dramatic phenomenon with its own myths and identity. The students assess the historical development and thematic content of Australian Drama through oral and written discussion of an Australian Performance, and through the acting-out of their own performances.