



THTR12125 *Comedy and Theatre*

Term 2 - 2024

Profile information current as at 29/07/2024 03:47 pm

All details in this unit profile for THTR12125 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

In this unit you will connect current comedy genres to their original forms. Through an analysis of characters and scenarios in contemporary comedies from stage and screen, you will discover the origins of comedy and how they began. You will explore the key traits of comedy found in today's popular culture and link to stock characters and scenarios from ancient Roman comedies and Commedia dell'Arte. You will explore historical and contemporary forms of comedy and how it has been used in various societies around the world and through the ages as both entertainment and a vehicle for social commentary.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisite: Minimum of 18 credit points
Antirequisite: Students who have completed THTR13124 Theatre Studies 3: Mask, Myth and Ritual cannot enrol in this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2024

- Mackay
- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Research Assignment**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

3. **Presentation**

Weighting: 40%

4. **Peer assessment**

Weighting: 10%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify key traits of comedy found in contemporary theatre, film and television
2. Analyse characters and scenarios in current comedy genres and compare to their original theatre forms
3. Investigate the use of comedy as a vehicle for social commentary
4. Apply your knowledge of comedic elements to create a short original comedy in audio or video format.

N/A

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Research Assignment - 30%	•	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 20%	•		•	
3 - Presentation - 40%			•	•
4 - Peer assessment - 10%				•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving				
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work				
6 - Information Technology Competence				•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence				
8 - Ethical practice				•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Microsoft Teams

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Linda Lorenza Unit Coordinator

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Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The play that went wrong	Online resources	

Week 2 - 15 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Features of Comedy		

Week 3 - 22 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Slapstick		

Week 4 - 29 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The three step rule		

Week 5 - 05 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Commedia dell'Arte		Comparative Analysis Due: Week 5 Friday (9 Aug 2024) 11:59 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 12 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 19 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Stock characters		

Week 7 - 26 Aug 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Circus and clowning		Proposal Due: Week 7 Friday (30 Aug 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
Week 8 - 02 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vaudeville		
Week 9 - 09 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review of content		
Week 10 - 16 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
In class and online presentations		In class and online presentations Presentation Due: Week 10 Monday (16 Sept 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
Week 11 - 23 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No classes		Peer assessment Due: Week 11 Friday (27 Sept 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
Week 12 - 30 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No classes		
Review/Exam Week - 07 Oct 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 14 Oct 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Comparative Analysis

Assessment Type

Research Assignment

Task Description

Compare a contemporary work from stage or screen with the origins of comedy.

In this task you will select a contemporary comic work from stage or screen and explore the comic devices used within it.

1. Select comedy that may be a film, television series or live theatre performance. You must be able to provide a link to a source for the comedy you have selected.
2. Identify the devices of comedy used in the contemporary work.
3. Research the origins of these comic devices using unit materials and other library resources.
4. Discuss the origin of these devices and how they have been applied and appropriated in the contemporary work you have selected.

Referencing:

1. Identify all references including the comedy you have selected using APA 7th style in in-text citations and correct reference list formatting.
2. Be careful to write in your own words, do not copy text from other sources. Remember to use correct

punctuation, grammar and capital letters for proper nouns.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence agents (Gen AI)

- Within this assessment, the use of Microsoft Copilot, Chat GPT or other Gen AI agents is as follows:
No Gen AI use at any point during this assessment.

Word limit: 2000 words

WORD COUNT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (9 Aug 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
Word document uploaded via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Week 7 Friday (30 Aug 2024)

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

- Clear introduction and conclusion (10%)
- Accuracy of information and depth of treatment of the topic (25%)
- Detailed discussion on the primary source examples provided (25%)
- Ability to write clearly and logically (15%)
- Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation and clear lay-out (10%)
- Correct use of APA style for the in-text referencing and reference list (15%)

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

submit word document (.doc or .docx) via Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify key traits of comedy found in contemporary theatre, film and television
- Analyse characters and scenarios in current comedy genres and compare to their original theatre forms

2 Proposal

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Proposal pitch for a comedy performance that represents and/or challenges a social behaviour or situation.

This is your pitch to the lecturer for your class presentation for Assessment 3.

A pitch is to persuade others to see the benefits of you, your product or idea, and to buy into it.

Your intention in this pitch is to:

1. convince the lecturer that your peers need to know about the Australian creative you have selected;
2. outline how your presentation will do this.

By exploring contemporary uses of comedy to draw attention to a social behaviour or situation, you will develop your own comic performance.

This proposal is your rationale for your presentation for Assessment 3. You should discuss:

1. What is your original comedy? Describe the synopsis/plot.
2. What features or devices of theatrical comedy have you incorporated and why? You must identify the comic theatre sources that have influenced the development of your original comedy.
3. Who is it intended for? Describe the intended audience.

Referencing:

1. Identify all references using APA 7th style in in-text citations and correct reference list formatting.
2. Be careful to write in your own words, do not copy text from other sources. Remember to use correct punctuation, grammar and capital letters for proper nouns.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence agents (Gen AI)

Within this assessment, the use of Microsoft Copilot, Chat GPT or other Gen AI agents is as follows:

- No Gen AI use at any point during this assessment.

Word Count: 1000 words**WORD COUNT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (30 Aug 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
written proposal in word document (.doc or .docx) submit via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Week 8 Friday (6 Sept 2024)

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

- Clear and compelling opening to your pitch (10%)
- Clear identification of the social behaviour or situation (25%)
- Clear identification of features or devices of theatrical comedy have you incorporated and why (25%)
- Clear explanation of the audience it is intended for (20%)
- Inclusion of documentation and in-text referencing (APA 7 format) including at least 3 primary sources (10%)
- Correct spelling, grammar, and word usage (10%)

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify key traits of comedy found in contemporary theatre, film and television
- Investigate the use of comedy as a vehicle for social commentary

3 Presentation

Assessment Type

Presentation

Task Description

This is your pre-recorded comedy to share with your peers.

Using your proposal from Assessment 3 and considering the feedback provided by your lecturer, plan, rehearse and record your original comedy, up to 3 minutes, in any format (audio or video) that represents and/or challenges the social behaviour or situation.

This must be pre-recorded and uploaded via Moodle as a Youtube clip or audio file.

A transcript of your comedy must be provided as a word document.

A reference list must be provided for all sources used to develop the 3 minute work. The reference list must include at least 3 primary sources such as journal articles, books and items you can find through the CQUniversity library database.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence agents (Gen AI)

Within this assessment, the use of Microsoft Copilot, Chat GPT or other Gen AI agents is as follows:

- Gen AI content is used to generate ideas and general structures.

WORD COUNT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct

quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Monday (16 Sept 2024) 11:59 pm AEST

Pre-recorded presentation

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Monday (14 Oct 2024)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

This task is peer assessed

Each student will be allocated 2-3 presentations to watch and review.

As you watch each presentation you will evaluate the presentation on these five criteria:

- The presentation caught my interest.
- I learned more about the social behaviour or situation than I already knew.
- The organisation of information was logical and easy to follow.
- The selected comic devices were effective in communicating the situation or issue.
- The use of live performance and/or images, video, sound and voice overs was effective selected to communicate the information.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Recorded presentation, transcript and reference list submitted online via Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Investigate the use of comedy as a vehicle for social commentary
- Apply your knowledge of comedic elements to create a short original comedy in audio or video format.

4 Peer assessment

Assessment Type

Peer assessment

Task Description

Students will peer assess each other's presentations in Assessment 3.

Assessment Due Date

Week 11 Friday (27 Sept 2024) 11:59 pm AEST

Completion of peer assessing online via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Monday (14 Oct 2024)

Weighting

10%

Assessment Criteria

Students will respond to each other's presentations through a Peer assessment tool in class.

Each student will be allocated 2-3 presentations to watch and review.

As you watch each presentation you will evaluate the presentation on these five criteria:

- The presentation caught my interest.
- I learned more about the social behaviour or situation than I already knew.
- The organisation of information was logical and easy to follow.
- The selected comic devices were effective in communicating the situation or issue.
- The use of live performance and/or images, video, sound and voice overs was effective selected to communicate the information.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Complete peer assessment through the online tool in Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply your knowledge of comedic elements to create a short original comedy in audio or video format.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem