



## Unit Outline

*NB: This unit outline must be read in conjunction with the SVPA Handbook.*

**Unit:** FFA 252 The Avant-Garde and the Necessity of the New

**Lecturers:** Dr Lycia Trouton & Dr Helen Trenos

**Campus & Mode:** Launceston (Inveresk), Internal

**Unit Weight** 12.5%

**Pre-requisite:** FFA102 and FFA103 **Co-requisite:** Nil

**Mutual exclusions:** Nil

**Course:** Bachelor of Contemporary Arts F3J

**Contact Details:** Dr Lycia Trouton **Ph:** 6324 4413 Dr Helen Trenos **Ph:** 6324 4427

**Email:** [Lycia.Trouton@utas.edu.au](mailto:Lycia.Trouton@utas.edu.au)

[Helen.Trenos@utas.edu.au](mailto:Helen.Trenos@utas.edu.au)

**Consultation:** By appointment

### Unit Description

This unit analyses the search for the essence of art and the investigation of basic form that became dominant issues in the first half of the 20th century. The manifestations of these issues in general terms across the arts and as they are revealed in the particular art forms of visual art and theatre will be covered. It focuses on the work of Kandinsky, Malevich, Mondrian, Brecht, Pirandello and Beckett. The unit may also consider the postmodernist and poststructuralist critiques of modernism undertaken in the latter part of the century.

### Assessment *(further details on pp. 3-4)*

Example:

500 word exercise 1	Due 4 <sup>th</sup> August	15%
500 word exercise 1	Due 25 <sup>th</sup> August	15%
Tutorial Presentation	At selected tutorial	30%
2000 word essay	Due 25 <sup>th</sup> September	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Prior knowledge &/or skills:** Nil

**Faculty WebSite:** <http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/arts/arts/>

## Learning Outcomes

*(NB The words in italics refer to University generic attributes. Further details given on p.3)*

This unit should enable students to:

- gain a broad knowledge of the period studied, including its artistic output and cultural context; (*Knowledge*)
- gain a detailed knowledge of a number of primary texts from the period, including images, scripts, poetry and critical writing; (*Knowledge*)
- place these texts in their socio-historical context; (*Knowledge & Global Perspective*)
- gain knowledge of the critical conventions applied to Western visual and theatre arts in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through to mid-20th centuries, and the critical conventions applied to the same periods today; (*Knowledge*)
- discuss the social and ethical issues that informed cultural practices in the period; (*Social Responsibility*)
- discuss and realise responses to the texts, events, exhibitions, performances of the period (*Communication Skills*)
- in written exercises, present ideas and arguments analysing to key texts, using coherent language supported by appropriate referencing. (*Communication Skills & Problem-Solving*)

## Required Texts

Unit Workbook (Visual Arts)  
See attached schedule of readings  
(Performing Arts)

*NB: The Unit Workbook (visual arts) is available for purchase at Uniprint (Inveresk). It contains texts that may be available from other sources which are considered essential to the understanding of the basic concepts taught in this unit. There is a copy of the Unit Workbook (visual arts) in the library's Closed Reserve*

## Other Publications: Reserved Reading List

*Items will be placed in Reserve as required, for example, if you are having problems accessing a text required to devise your essay topic.*

**Further Learning resources required:** Nil

**Non-text resources:** Nil

**Technical requirements:** Nil

**Software requirements:** Nil

**Access to Information Technology:** *See SVPA Study Companion regarding access and use of Undergraduate Computer Lab*

**Consumables Contribution Scheme:** N/A

## Teaching Arrangements

From Weeks 1-13 there will be a program of lectures addressing key issues of the set topic and introducing key images and texts. These will be followed a series of seminars and tutorials as set out in the unit program. Please note the times where the class splits to investigate specialized topics in the visual arts and theatre.

**Learning Expectations** (*See also the SVPA Handbook*)

In this unit you are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials as programmed, to participate in and lead discussions, to maintain progress and to discuss strategies for progress with teachers, and to submit work for assessment on time and in the expected form. Students are also expected to maintain a demonstrated interest in the arts and actively apply the critical framework presented in the unit to contemporary practice.

**Learning Strategies & Attendance Requirements** (*See SVPA Handbook*)**Generic Attributes**

The University states: *The Generic Attributes of Graduates of the University of Tasmania will act as a common set of outcomes expected of all graduates of the University. See also SVPA Handbook for Course Generic Attributes.*

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Exemplars</b> <i>Students will be able to:</i>	<b>Assessed</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	gain a broad knowledge of the vocabulary of the avant-garde as concept expressed through historical movements in the visual & performing arts and be able to apply this vocabulary to the interpretation of works of the period gain knowledge of the modes of writing appropriate to the discipline	All assessment tasks.  Short exercises & essay.
<b>Communication Skills</b>	demonstrate skills in written communication; demonstrate skills in oral communication; present well-reasoned arguments; use technology, where appropriate, as means of communication; access, organise and present information; listen to and evaluate the views of others	Short exercises and essay. Presentations. All tasks. Presentations. All tasks. Presentations.
<b>Problem-solving Skills</b>	identify critical issues in the content of the unit identify and discuss issues raised by key texts Work effectively with others;	All tasks. Presentations. Presentations
<b>Global Perspective</b>	identify the social and historical contexts of the texts and objects studied and consider them in relation to contemporary cultural production; express ideas in a culturally inclusive manner	All tasks.  All tasks
<b>Social Responsibility</b>	be aware of social, and ethical issues raised by the texts, images, and performances.	All tasks.

**Assessment**

**Written Task:** Short exercise 1

**Description:** An assignment sheet will be distributed in class, Week 2, and discussed

**Task Length:** 500 words

**Due:** Week 4 (4<sup>th</sup> August) in class

**Links to Outcomes:** The exercise focuses on grasping an understanding of the basic tenets of the avant-garde by identifying evidence of these in a key text of the period: outcomes include gaining a broad knowledge of the vocabulary of modernism (*Knowledge*); demonstrating appropriate writing skills for the discipline (*Communication*).

**Assessment Criteria Guidelines:** (*See SVPA Study Companion Assessment criteria*)

**Written Tasks:** Short exercise 2

**Description:** An assignment sheet will be distributed in class, Week 4, and discussed

**Task Length:** 500 words

**Due:** Week 7 (25<sup>th</sup> August) in class

**Links to Outcomes:** The exercise extends the work carried out in Short Exercise 1: outcomes will include gaining a broad knowledge of the vocabulary of the avant-garde; (*Knowledge*) demonstrating appropriate writing skills for the discipline; identification of critical issues of the period and their social context, but will now cover the identification of social and historical contexts of the texts and objects studied, considering them in relation to contemporary cultural production. (*Knowledge; Problem Solving; Social Responsibility; Global Perspectives*)

**Assessment Criteria Guidelines:** (*See SVPA Study Companion Assessment criteria*)

**Seminars/Presentations:** Tutorial presentation

**Description:** Presentation summarizing and critiquing a set text (Visual Arts Stream)/

Presentation summarizing and critiquing a contemporary performance practice (Performing Arts Stream)

**Task Length:** 5-10 minutes in a selected tutorial (Visual Arts Stream)/ 20-25 minutes group presentation (ideally 4-5 per group) in Week 13 (Performing Arts Stream)

**Links to Outcomes:** The presentation provides another way of expressing concepts that have been investigated in the first Short Exercises, with additional outcomes being demonstrate skills in oral communication; the presentation of well-reasoned arguments (*Problem Solving; Communication*); the use of technology, devised group work and action, where appropriate, as means of communication (*Communication*); the ability to access, organise and present information (*Communication; Knowledge*); the ability to listen to and evaluate the views of others (*Communication; Social Responsibility; Global Perspectives*)

**Assessment Criteria Guidelines:** (*See SVPA Study Companion Assessment criteria*)

**Essay:** On a topic to be circulated in Week 2

**Description:** Written assignment that reflects addresses set topic and is presented according to the guidelines set down for the Presentation of Written Work within the School of Visual & Performing Arts

**Task Length:** 2000 words

**Due:** Week 10 (5pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September)

**Links to Outcomes:** The essay allows students to demonstrate knowledge of significant 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century texts and/or artworks. (*Knowledge*)

Analyse and critique concepts and conditions driving the formation of an avant-garde and examine their applicability to particular texts or artworks (*Problem-solving and Communications skills*)

Discuss aesthetic, social and ethical issues raised by the texts. (*Social responsibility; Global perspectives*)

**Assessment Criteria Guidelines:** (*See SVPA Study Companion Assessment criteria*)

**Determination of final result; Details on submission of assignments; Procedure for requests for extensions; Penalties; Review of results and appeals; Academic Referencing; Plagiarism; Occupational health and safety; Further help and Assistance.**

*For information on the above please see the SVPA Study Companion Handbook.*