Module Descriptor

Title	21st Century Theatre & Performance		
Session	2026-2027	**Status**	
Code	PERF08005	**SCQF Level**	**SCQF 8**
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr James Layton		

Summary of Module

21st Century Theatre & Performance is designed to provide context to theoretical and practical exploration of movements, practitioners, and plays. The module explores major 20th century theatre movements to assess their influence on contemporary practice.

Indicative content:

•Practitioners and companies: Robert Wilson, Robert Le Page, Jonathan Young/Crystal Pite, Punchdrunk, Secret Cinema, Creation Theatre, Gecko Theatre, Frantic Assembly, Paper Birds, Complicite, Forced Entertainment, Stan's Cafe, Grid Iron, Cardboard Citizens.

•Play texts and productions: The Container, Betroffenheit, Hamletmachine, The Cleansing of Constance Brown, 586, Einstein on the Beach, The Life and Times of Marina Abramović, Sleep No More, The Wedding.

•Movements, genres: Immersive, participatory, and site-specific performance, postdramatic theatre, verbatim theatre, forum theatre, digital and intermedial performance, dance theatre.

The module explores the above content in relation to its wider social, cultural, political, historical, and cultural contexts. It also examines the role of the 21st century spectator and performance maker, considering how this has been developed over time.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☐	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☒	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☒
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of how 21st century theatre and performance has been influenced by previous practice.
L2	Critically appraise a piece of 21st century performance in its social, historical, and cultural contexts.
L3	Critically reflect on the role of the spectator and performance maker in the 21st century.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 8** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key movements and practitioners.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Apply knowledge and understanding in relation to contemporary theatre.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Research and examine information, materials and experience.

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Use a range of appropriate sources to plan research, ensuring intended outcomes are achieved.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Participation in webinar discussions and appropriate planning for researching materials and formulating performance analysis to agreed timescales.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	16
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	8
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Brayshaw, B., Fenemore, A., Witts, N. (eds.) (2019) The Twenty-First Century Performance Reader. London: Routledge. Machon, J. (2013) Immersive Theatres: Intimacy and Immediacy in Contemporary Performance. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:**

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**
Overall Assessment Results	☒ **Pass / Fail** ☐ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts & Media
Moderator	Dr Sofia Nakou
External Examiner	S. Piasecka
Accreditation Details	N/A
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Students will write an essay (circa. 2500 words) to critically examine an aspect of 21st century performance. (100%)
Assessment 2
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	100%	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Updated moderator name.	25/2/26	JL
Updated EE name.	25/2/26	JL
Amended typo in LO2.	25/2/26	JL