

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous)
Theatre & Performance Studies Syllabus (Under CBCS)
An outline—Semesters I to IV—2019 onward

Theatre Studies was introduced in 2019 as one major in a three-major BA course where the other majors are Optional English and Psychology.

The Theatre Studies course is visualised as a **creative collaboration** between the Department of English and practitioners of the theatre arts. The aim of the collaboration is to balance academic rigour in **reading and writing** with **hands-on training in performance and production skills**.

The syllabus is built around an **opus-centred approach**: one dramatic text will be the focus in each semester. This text will be the basis for an introduction to **interpretation, provenance** and **questions of reception**, while simultaneously leading to issues of **dramaturgy** and a contextual understanding of **theatrical practices**, to an **engagement with writing and adaptation**, and to the finer details of actual **production**.

The credit map given below shows the work expected of the student and reveals the multiple emphases of the course. The committed student will take from this course a multi-skill orientation that will include reading closely and critically, capabilities in teaching theatre, research and documentation, the capacity to conceptualise and execute a production, and a fine-tuned understanding of the writing process.

Credit Map

5 credits per semester arising out of 75 hours of work

1. 2 hours per week: Reading and Interpretation of the work chosen (2 credits)
2. 1 hour per week: Creative Writing and Adaptation (1 credit)
3. 1 hour per week: The play in context—histories and practices (1 credit)
4. 2 hours per week: Production Labs—acting and staging (1 credit)

We hope to refine this model through periodic consultations with theatre practitioners and educators, and through the necessary process of trial-and-error. If the pandemic necessitates online classes, the last component will be broken up into a series of online workshops plus practice sessions in digital theatre.

Semester I

I: Play: Suggested texts (any one, subject to availability)

Mahesh Dattani: Final Solutions

OR

Rashmi Ruth Devadasan: Miss Meena

II: Creative Writing

Writing conversation; understanding chronemics; connecting dialogue to stage and movement.

III: Context and history

English language theatre in India
English language theatre in Bangalore

IV: Practicals

Acting and staging

The student will typically do a small Writing Portfolio of Creative Writing pieces and Theatre Research assignments which will combine with a repertoire that the student will work on for performance purposes.

Testing and Assessment for Semester I

Testing will follow the 70:30 pattern prescribed by Bangalore University, now Bangalore City University.

Continuous Assessment (30 marks)

Test: 15 marks

Class Assignments: 10 marks

Attendance: 05 marks

End-Semester Assessment (70 marks)

Examination :70 marks to be based on components 1-3.

Practical Assessment: (50 marks)

Continuous Assessment (15 marks) : based on participation and assignments given in lab sessions.

End-Semester Assessment (35 marks): based on a viva/presentation drawn from portfolio and repertoire before an external examiner

Semester II

I: Play: Suggested texts (any one, subject to availability)

Girish Karnad: Taledanda OR Nagamandala

II: Creative Writing

Translating for theatre—the politics of translation into English—translating into other languages. The student is to focus on developing character through a specific idiolect, and to focus on creating short sketches for these characters.

III: Context and history

Kannada theatre, and theatre in Bangalore
Theatrical traditions of Karnataka.

IV: Practicals

Acting and staging

The student will typically do a small Writing Portfolio of Creative Writing pieces and Theatre Research assignments which will combine with a repertoire that the student will work on for performance purposes.

Testing and Assessment for Semester II

Testing will follow the 70:30 pattern prescribed by Bangalore University, now Bangalore City University.

Continuous Assessment (30 marks)

Test: 15 marks

Assignments: 10 marks

Attendance: 05 marks

End-Semester Assessment (70 marks)

Examination :70 marks to be based on components 1-3.

Practical Assessment: (50 marks)

Continuous Assessment (15 marks) : based on participation and assignments given in lab sessions.

End-Semester Assessment (35 marks): based on a viva/presentation drawn from portfolio and repertoire before an external examiner.

Semester III

I: Play: Suggested texts (any one, subject to availability)

Dario Fo: *We Won't Pay We Won't Pay* or *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*

II: Creative Writing

Characters in context—experimenting with words, sounds and mise-en-scene—
Writing as if for children.

III: Context and history

Keywords: Satire, Agit-prop, Commedia dell'arte, mime

Fo and Franca Rame—a history of collaboration

The People's Clowns—Tim Parks, NYRB

Dario Fo at 90—So Farce, So Good, Guardian

IV: Practicals

Acting and staging

The student will typically do a small Writing Portfolio of Creative Writing pieces and Theatre Research assignments which will combine with a repertoire that the student will work on for performance purposes.

Testing and Assessment for Semester II

Testing will follow the 70:30 pattern prescribed by Bangalore University, now Bangalore City University.

Continuous Assessment (30 marks)

Test: 15 marks

Assignments: 10 marks

Attendance: 05 marks

End-Semester Assessment (70 marks)

Examination :70 marks to be based on components 1-3.

Practical Assessment: (50 marks)

Continuous Assessment (15 marks) : based on participation and assignments given in lab sessions.

End-Semester Assessment (35 marks): based on a viva/presentation drawn from portfolio and repertoire before an external examiner.

Semester IV: 3 credits (owing to CBCS)

I: Play: Suggested texts (any one, subject to availability)

Eugene Ionesco: *The Bald Soprano* OR *MacBett*

II: Creative Writing

Characters in context—experimenting with words, sounds and mise-en-scene—
Writing as if for children.

III: Context and history

Keywords: Theatre of the Absurd, Surrealism, Dadaism, Pataphysics, Oulipo

Martin Esslin—Theatre of the Absurd

Eugene Ionesco : *Present Past Past Present*—A memoir

Robert Mazocco :*The Family Man*—NYRB profile

IV: Practicals

Acting and staging

The student will typically do a small Writing Portfolio of Creative Writing pieces and Theatre Research assignments which will combine with a repertoire that the student will work on for performance purposes.

Testing and Assessment for Semester II

Testing will follow the 70:30 pattern prescribed by Bangalore University, now Bangalore City University.

Continuous Assessment (20 marks)

Test: 10 marks

Assignments: 05 marks

Attendance: 05 marks

End-Semester Assessment (50 marks)

Examination :50 marks to be based on components 1-3.

Practical Assessment: (50 marks)

Continuous Assessment (15 marks) : based on participation and assignments given in lab sessions.

End-Semester Assessment (35 marks): based on a viva/presentation drawn from portfolio and repertoire before an external examiner.