

Faculty of Education

Postgraduate Certificate in the Teaching of Shakespeare

1 Background

The course will offer to teachers and teaching artists active, leading edge academic & performance approaches to teaching Shakespeare and key literature. It will provide subject knowledge, artistic and pedagogical skills, and understanding of contemporary issues including intercultural approaches, multiliteracies, use of information technologies, inclusion, gender and cultural entitlement. The course will be run in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford on Avon.

Shakespeare is taught in schools, colleges and universities in Victoria and across Australia: very widely in both English and drama programs in secondary schools, and increasingly in primary schools. It is a task demanding specialist knowledge, understanding and skills that many teachers do not have, one of which a large number of teachers are extremely fearful, and one which is often as a result poorly taught. Although there are some excellent book and internet resources in this area, there is a shortage of the experiential exposure and training necessary to instil and develop this understanding and the skills to teach Shakespeare. More broadly, the combination of literary, pedagogical and dramatic skills needed to teach complex literary or performance texts are often outside the scope of pre-service teacher education, but essential in all contemporary classrooms. In addition, there is an increasing use of performing artists working in residencies and partnerships in schools and other educational contexts, who need the same combined skills. This need is not confined to Victoria, and it is envisaged that a course offered intensively, with online support, by the acknowledged world leaders in the field, will appeal to those cohorts of teachers and artists in other states.

2 Course/Program Objectives

The course will offer students leading edge academic, pedagogical, performance, critical and cultural skills and understanding in the specific area of teaching Shakespeare, and more broadly in the application of these skills and understandings to a broad range of literary and performance texts.

Graduates will:

- have engaged with and have a basic understanding of the scholarship of Shakespeare in production
- have developed skills in the practice of Shakespeare in rehearsal and production
- understand contemporary issues in the teaching of Shakespeare
- have critically examined a range of active pedagogy in the study of Shakespeare and other complex texts
- have learned, practised and implemented a range of pedagogical skills in the teaching of Shakespeare and other complex texts
- have explored a range of relevant educational themes in the study of Shakespeare and literature, including intercultural issues, multiliteracies, information technology, inclusion, gender and cultural entitlement.

3 Entry Requirements

To be recommended by Academic Board at a later date.

4 Course/Program Structure

An important tenet of the RSC's work is that 'all teaching of Shakespeare should include some theatre-based activities'. This course is one year part-time. Each semester consists of a one week intensive program, of face-to-face intensive theatre-based activities, accompanied by practical workshops in pedagogy followed by twelve weeks of a reading program combined with workplace-based action research tasks. This last component is supported on-line, through weekly discussion forums and interactive feedback sessions.

sem	Title	Total Contact hrs	Delivery
1	Teaching Shakespeare the RSC way	20	20 hours over the 5 day intensive period in January (Victorian school summer holidays)
1	Shakespeare in classroom and community	17	10 hours over the 5 day intensive period in January (Victorian school holidays) 7 hours on one day during the last teaching week in semester 1
2	Shakespeare and dramatic pedagogy	20	20 hours over the 5 day intensive period in July (Victorian school winter holidays)
2	Implementing dramatic processes	17	10 hours over the 5 day intensive period in July (Victorian school winter holidays) 7 hours on one day during the last teaching week in semester 2

5 Availability of Course

The course will be available on a part-time basis from semester 1, 2008 to CSP students.