

*Modern and Contemporary World Theatre
Civilization Sequence CVSP 212*

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Office Hours: Wed 11am-1pm

Course Description

In this course we will examine various modern theatre traditions, beginning with plays written by Chekhov and Ibsen in the late 19th century and including contemporary works by Federico Garcia-Lorca, Wole Soyinka and Bertolt Brecht. As we read and analyze modern and contemporary plays from a number of traditions --European, Russian, African, etc. -- in both written and visual form, we will pay particular attention to the ways in which theatrical forms in the 20th century have crossed cultural boundaries and in so doing created new modes of theatrical expression.

Requirements

Assigned readings must be completed before class. You should keep a journal with your responses to all of the plays and other texts we read and view (approximately 250 words minimum; include the date the entry was written). These entries should be completed **before class** and they should **not** be general, impressionistic responses (i.e. "I liked this play. I thought it was good."). You should, for example, pick two passages in the assigned reading and analyze them in detail and write about how they relate to the entire play or to other plays we have read. You will have one mid-term exam, one group presentation and a final paper. Class attendance is required. If you miss class more than two times, your grade will be lowered accordingly. ***ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON TIME. (Do NOT turn in responses that are paraphrased or cut-and-pasted from internet sites. If you need more time to complete an assignment, tell me in advance and I will make a reasonable effort to accommodate. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with according to university regulations. Cell phones should be turned off and placed out of sight during class).***

Grades

Your grade will derive from the following formula:

class attendance and participation	20%
journal	20%
mid-term	20%
final presentation	20%
final paper	20%

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop a familiarity with modern theatrical and artistic traditions in Europe, Africa, Asia, Russia and the US. They will read significant canonical writers from numerous cultures and develop an understanding of the theatrical approaches and innovations employed in European and non-European theatre. They will develop a more sophisticated approach to play reading, play viewing and play staging, and they will significantly improve critical, analytical and writing skills.

ALL READINGS CAN BE OBTAINED AT RAS BEIRUT PRESS ON MAK'HOUL STREET (FARAH BLDG). RIAD (03-679-863) WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.
WE WILL ALSO VIEW FILMED VERSIONS OF SOME PLAYS.

Schedule

- Week 1: Class Introduction
Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*. Acts One and Two
- Week 2: *The Cherry Orchard*. Acts Three and Four.
Ibsen, *The Doll's House*. Act One.
- Week 3: *The Doll's House*. Acts Two and Three.
Brecht, *Mother Courage*. Scenes One-Four.
- Week 4: *Mother Courage*. Scenes Five-Eight.
Mother Courage. Scenes Nine-Twelve.
- Week 5: Brecht's Theoretical Writings:
"Modern Theatre is the Epic Theatre"
"Alienation Effects in Chinese Acting"
- Week 6: Lorca, *Blood Wedding*. Act One
Blood Wedding. Acts Two and Three
- Week 7: *Blood Wedding* (Film)
Sowinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*. Acts One and Two
- Week 8: *Death and the King's Horseman*. Acts 3, 4 & 5.
MID-TERM EXAM.
- Week 9: Pinter, *Birthday Party*. Act One.
Birthday Party. Act Two
- Week 10: Fougard, *Master Harold and the Boys*. (ENTIRE PLAY)
Master Harold and the Boys.(Film)
- Week 11: Frayn, *Copenhagen*. Act One.
Copenhagen. Act Two and Postscript.
- Week 12: Churchill, *Mad Forest*. Pages 1-43
Mad Forest. Pages 44-87
- Week 13: Kushner, *Slavs*.
Slavs.
- Week 14: PRESENTATIONS
PRESENTATIONS
FILM (TO BE ANNOUNCED)

FINAL PAPERS DUE JAN 22 (NO EXTENSIONS)