

COURSE SPECIFICATION
DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Performance and Theatre Arts
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Modern Drama
Course Code:	THR 5205
Course Leader:	Michael Barclay
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures/Presentations:	20
Seminar Tutorials:	10
Screenings:	10
Field Trips:	5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall and/or Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Examines *Modernism* critically from the perspective of European drama. Beginning with mid nineteenth century Russian drama and continuing to the theatre of the Absurd, this course stresses the resurgence of theatre as a vital aesthetic experience and concentrates on the multiplicity of theatrical approaches employed by such dramatists as Gorky, Chekov and Brecht, Shaw and Pirandello.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195 or GEP 4180

Aims and Objectives:

This course examines some of the key European figures of the movements of the modern period. It also considers the notion of the post-modern, how this idea is perhaps contained in modernism, and how both movements are still with us.

Programme Outcomes:

5A(iii), 5B(i), 5B(iv), 5C(i), 5C(ii), 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the terminology related to Modern and Post Modern European Drama, in relation to a series of prescribed texts, showing an awareness of different ideas, contexts and frameworks characteristic of each genre.
- Identify, analyse and communicate the principle differences between Naturalist and Symbolist texts, identifying different ideas, contexts and frameworks unique to each genre.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate ideas about character and representation through the structures of key works in drama from the modern period.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse a range of information from secondary sources with personal assessments and comparisons of key works from the modern period, using external sources to expand and support critical statements in written work.
- Deliver work with limited supervision, demonstrating the capacity to evaluate plays in performance in relation to their structure, character and directorial interpretation.

Indicative Content:

The impact of *German Expressionism* on European and British drama.

The birth of *Russian Realism* and the impact of the Moscow Arts Theatre on Modern European and British drama.

Nordic Symbolism in Sweden and Norway and its influence on Modern drama.

Theatre as protest: an examination of German Political Theatre.

French Theatre in the 20th Century: the notion of collaboration and guilt in plays of the 40's and 50's.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

Students will usually be required to read a play in advance of each week's class, though this may be replaced or augmented by critical or theoretical reading. The focus on participation in class is supported by allocating specific areas of study; for example, character, themes, historical background to individual students. The written papers will reflect discussion and class work, and will require reference to secondary sources.

Indicative Texts:

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Texts:

Bentley, Eric. *Theory of the Modern Stage*. Penguin, 2000

Styan, J.L., *Modern Drama in Theory and Practice*, (vols.1-7: selections). Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

See syllabus for complete reading list.

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Indicative Content	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Rewrite of Indicative Texts	LTPC 30/5/14	