

EN2D8-30 European Theatre

26/27

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Stephen Purcell

Credit value

30

Module duration

18 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

N/A

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

- To introduce a range of major plays from the European dramatic tradition, concentrating on classical tragedy, seventeenth-century tragedy and comedy, metatheatre, Naturalism, and on conflicting twentieth-century concepts of dramatic ideology and form.
- To study plays in their historical context and as texts for performance, which involves reference to the original staging conventions and to modern productions. Where possible, plays are studied in performance – on stage or on the screen.
- To explore changing theatrical representations of class and gender.
- To consider the relationship between dramatic form, intellectual debate and cultural conditions, as reflected in the plays and theatrical periods in question.
- To introduce students to a number of theories of the drama, with reference to their practical application in playtexts and production.
- To consider the uses dramatists have made of existing genres and traditions.
- To develop students' ability to analyze dramatic texts both as literature and as texts for

performance.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

Week 1 Introduction

Week 2 Aeschylus, The Oresteia

Week 3 Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Week 4 Sophocles, Antigone

Week 5 Euripides, The Bacchae

Week 6 Reading week

Week 7 Kyd, The Spanish Tragedy

Week 8 Calderon, Life's a Dream

Week 9 Moliere, Tartuffe

Week 10 Racine, Phèdre

Term 2

Week 1 Ibsen, Hedda Gabler

Week 2 Chekhov, The Seagull

Week 3 Strindberg, Miss Julie

Week 4 Wedekind, Spring's Awakening

Week 5 Brecht, Life of Galileo

Week 6 Reading week

Week 7 Lorca, Yerma

Week 8 Beckett, Endgame

Week 9 Churchill, The Skriker

Week 10 Crimp, Attempts on Her Life

Term 3

Week 1 Reviewing European Theatre: revision lecture and seminars

Week 2 Revision seminars

Week 3 Revision seminars

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of several major trends in European theatre and of the work of historically-significant playwrights
- Articulate a sense of the expressive possibilities of different dramatic languages: for example, poetic rhetoric, naturalistic dialogue, the choric voice, subtext, mise en scene, movement
- Demonstrate some familiarity with key theoretical debates, including Aristotle, Stanislavski and Brecht

- Develop skills in reading dramatic texts
- Develop argumentative skills in academic essays

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of several major trends in European theatre and of the work of historically-significant playwrights
- Articulate a sense of the expressive possibilities of different dramatic languages: for example, poetic rhetoric, naturalistic dialogue, the choric voice, subtext, mise en scene, movement
- Demonstrate some familiarity with key theoretical debates, including Aristotle, Stanislavski and Brecht
- Develop skills in reading dramatic texts

Transferable skills

- Develop argumentative skills in academic essays

Study

Study time

| Type | Required |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lectures | 18 sessions of 1 hour (6%) |
| Seminars | 18 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (9%) |
| Other activity | 4 hours 30 minutes (1%) |
| Private study | 250 hours 30 minutes (83%) |
| Total | 300 hours |

Private study description

Reading & research.

Other activity description

Revision sessions.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

| Assessment component | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|--|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessed essay 1 x 3,500-word essay Level 5 essays will be selected from a list of questions circulated by the module tutor. | 50% | | Yes (extension) |

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----------------|
| Assessed Essay OR Creative Project with 1800 word essay EITHER 1 x 3,500-word essay OR 1 x creative project with supporting essay of 1,800 words Level 5 essays will be selected from a list of questions circulated by the module tutor. | 50% | | Yes (extension) |
|---|-----|--|-----------------|

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-QQ39 Undergraduate English and Classical Civilisation

- Year 2 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 2 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 2 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature