

GE212-15 Bertolt Brecht: Theatre as Revolution

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Helmut Schmitz

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

N/A

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module will present the development Brecht's theatre and theatre theory in its socio-historical and aesthetic context.

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.

Week

- 1 Introduction: The crisis of Modern Theatre and the Development of Brecht's episches Theater
- 2 Walter Benjamin: 'Was ist das epische Theater?' & 'Der Autor als Produzent'

- 3 The Lehrstück: Die Maßnahme
- 4 Theatre of Class War: Die heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe
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- 6 Reading week
- 7 Epic Theatre in exile: Mutter Courage
- 8 Epic Theatre in exile: Mutter Courage
- 9 Epic Theatre in the GDR: Der kaukasische Kreidekreis
- 10 Kleines Organon für das Theater

Learning outcomes

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

- Subject knowledge and Understanding: By the end of the module the student should be able to: critically assess the development of the formal aspects of Brecht's Epic Theatre, ...place Brecht's theatre in its socio-historical context, ... critically assess Brecht's contribution to theatre theory and practice through engagement with secondary sources.
- Key Skills: Written and oral communication skills, Problem-solving, Independent learning, Modern foreign language
- Cognitive Skills: Ability to abstract and synthesise key information from written sources. Ability to organize, present and defend ideas within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument orally and in writing. Ability to formulate an argument with reference to established interpretations. Ability to analyse critically a range of materials.
- Subject Specific Skills: Ability to conduct independent research using library, bibliographic resources and ICT skills. Ability to engage critically with a variety of theoretical approaches and interpretations. Command of German

Indicative reading list

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

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of German culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of Bertolt Brecht will be enhanced through lectures and

seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 2 hours (11%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Includes one Reading Week

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

Weighting		Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay	100%		No

Weighting**Study time****Eligible for self-certification**

One essay of 3250-3500 word length.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability**Courses**

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 2 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R4RG Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and German
- Year 3 of UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German