Syllabus

Chekhov and theatre revolutions in the 20th century - 20569

Last update 16-10-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Theatre Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Olga Levitan

Coordinator Email: levitanolga6@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 14.00-15.00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Olga Levitan
Course/Module description:
Chekhov is one of the most important playwrights of 20th century theatre, though his writings initially posed a challenge for theatre artists in different countries, including Russia. The course is dedicated to the main characteristics of Chekhov’s drama poetics and their influence on avant-garde theatre practice in the 20th century. Class discussions will focus on the characteristics of Chekhov’s dramatic technique, such as a polyphonic structure, epic thinking, tragicomic phenomena, absurd communication, and others. The discussion will trace the various approaches to directing Chekhov's plays, from Stanislavsky to postmodern theatre practices.

Course/Module aims:
The aim of the course is to present the specific features of Chekhov’s art language and Chekhov’s world, and to reveal the meaningful subjects of his plays and his influence on modernist ideas in the 20th century.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Students will be able to understand the essential interactions between Chekhov’s dramatic technique and the meaningful content of his plays as well as to discuss his main philosophical ideas and their influence on 20th century culture.

Attendance requirements(%):
80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Instruction will consist of a combination of frontal lessons, group discussions. Watching current Chekhov performances and recorded segments, and discussing them. Students will be offered the option of staging performative segments as a practical-research exercise.

Course/Module Content:
1. The Chekhov story as an introduction to his plays.
2. Universal codes and the characteristics of Chekhov's poetics
3. Stanislavsky directs Chekhov: Success or failure?
5. Chekhov and the stage grotesque: From Meyerhold to the Wooster Group.
6. The Chekhovian renaissance in Western theatre after WWII.

7. Chekhov and the Cruel theatre: Between utopia and dystopia.

8. Chekhov in the era of deconstruction

Required Reading:
Stories: The Duel, Ward Number 6, The Lady With the Dog, The Man in a Shell

Research:
A. Poetics


B. Chekhov and Theatre


Additional Reading Material:

Anton Chekhov through the eyes of Russian thinkers: Vasilii Rozanov, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii and Lev Shestov. Ed. Tabachnikova, O., Ure, A. London ; New York : Anthem Press, 2010


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 80 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Recommended to see two performances of Chekhov's plays.