

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Between Theory and Practice: Contemporary Theatre and Performance - 20123

Last update 17-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Theatre Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Ira Avneri

Coordinator Email: iravneri@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. ira avneri

Course/Module description:

In the course we will deal with fundamental issues concerning the theory and practice of the theatre and performance art in the 20th and 21st centuries. Among other issues, we will discuss the theoretical-ideological foundation and the artistic movements that have paved the way for contemporary artists; the shift from 'Aristotelian' theatre to Postdramatic theatre; the postmodern deconstruction of the notion of character, and the establishment of the 'performance of the self'; the performative turn; notable artists and new intermedial artistic languages; and performative representations of gender and personal identity.

Course/Module aims:

- 1. Discussion of the origins of the 21st century Western theatre and performance art, and of several important trends in contemporary performance*
- 2. Encounter with prominent thinkers and artists who have left a mark on contemporary theatre*
- 3. Observation of contemporary theatre as an interdisciplinary, multilayered realm*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1. To better understand the questions which lay at the core of contemporary theatre and performance art in Israel and abroad*
- 2. To be able to recognize expressions of these questions in local and foreign performances and to grasp their outcomes*

Attendance requirements(%):

90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, reading of texts and articles, watching recorded performances, discussion in class.

Course/Module Content:

- 1. The Foundations of the 21st Century Theatre and Performance Art: Brecht and Artaud*
- 2. Postmodernism and the Postdramatic Theatre*
- 3. A Postmodernist Reading of Classics*
- 4. Dismantling and Deconstruction of the Notion of Character*

-
5. Jerzy Grotowski's Poor Theatre
 6. Peter Brook's Holy-Rough Theatre
 7. Tadeusz Kantor's Theatre of Death and Memory
 8. The Happening as Political Theatre
 9. Beuys, Cage, and the Fluxus
 10. Female Performance Art: The Founding "Mothers"
 11. The Performance of the Self and Body Art
 12. Self-portrait in Performance (the Individual and the Group) – Romeo Castellucci and Pippo Delbono
 13. The Tragic, the Comic, and the Grotesque in Contemporary Theatre

Required Reading:

A list of obligatory reading will be provided to the students at the beginning of the course

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Written / Oral / Practical Exam 80 %
Other 20 %

Additional information: