Syllabus

Tango Culture: Poetry Music Dance Theatre and Cinema - 23967

Last update 16-07-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Musicology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Edwin Seroussi

Coordinator Email: edwin.seroussi@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tue. 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Edwin Seroussi
**Course/Module description:**
The course is designed to provide students with an introduction into the complexity of tango as a cultural phenomenon, as a whole consisting of discrete musical works, images, body movements and cinematographic representations. Since its birth on the outskirts of the two big cities on the shores of Rio de la Plata, Buenos Aires and Montevideo, among a multicultural immigrant society, the tango has grown to become one of the first global genres of popular music of the early 20th century. This global dimension will be explored in all its components.

**Course/Module aims:**
We will discuss multidisciplinary aspects of tango, starting with a critical study and analysis of musical and textual repertoires, key figures in the field, reception processes, the creation of icons in global spaces, the connection between art and national and post-national culture, gender relations and identity politics.

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**
- A deep understanding of Tango as a whole consisting of music, poetry and dance
- Familiarity with the main figures in the history of Tango
- Ability to analyze the phenomenon of Tango critically, including the identification of different styles
- Familiarity with the academic literature in various fields that discuss Tango from different perspectives

**Attendance requirements(%):**
90

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** In addition to weekly readings, the course will include intensive guided listening of music clips and films as well as live encounters with tango artists.

**Course/Module Content:**
1) Introduction: Tango as a culture
2) The social, political and cultural background of Argentina at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, a culture of immigrants.
3) Introduction to the music of tango
4) From popular culture to elitist culture - the Golden Age
5) From dance to song: The literature of the tango and the image of Carlos Gardel
6) Tango and gender
7) The Bandoneon: Lesson with the player Eduardo Abramson
8) Modern Tango: Astor Piazzolla and the post-junta period
9) Global Tango
10) Global Tango: The Jewish and Hebrew connections
11) The presence of Tango in Western art music
12) Tango in Cinema 1: Argentinian cinema from the 1930s until today
13) Tango in Cinema 2: Tango’s reception in Hollywood and in Global Cinema
14) Tango today: between blossoming and crisis

Required Reading:


Russo, Juan Angel y Santiago Marpegan. 1987. Letras de Tango (con biografías y comentarios), Buenos Aires.


Additional Reading Material:


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 30 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The course is open to students of Arts Institute, the Department of Latin-American Studies and Cultural Studies. Students from other Departments will be accepted pending consultation with the instructor. The course does not require the ability to read music, although it is desirable.