

2021-22 Spring

HART1029

Multicultural Dramatic Works (1-credit)

Course Instructor: Ms. LAM Yin Krissy (email: yinkrissy.lam@gmail.com)

Program Officer: Mr. Jeff LAI (email: jefflai@ust.hk)

Time: Tuesday 10:30am – 12:20pm

Venue: CYT-G009AB

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

In this highly practical performance-based theatre course, students will be exposed to dramatic works by influential modern and contemporary playwrights in diverse cultural and social backgrounds. Students will explore how drama as an art form operates to critically examine, deeply reflect and artistically transform stories, social phenomenon and human conditions in various cultures. Through the guided and imaginative journeys, students will have the opportunity to take on the roles of performers, directors and even designers to practice theatre-making skills. Students will apply drama knowledge and skills in studying, analyzing and performing plays of different genres with multicultural backgrounds including Greek & French, Singaporean & Chinese, British & German. Throughout the course, students will often find themselves working in small groups and taking on various roles to explore the meanings within the plays, turning the dramatic text on paper into a 3-dimensional performance, with specific performing styles and techniques.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Develop critical understanding of the cultural roles and significance of theatre and drama.
2. Acquire and apply appropriate choice of performing styles and skills for the performance of the play studied.
3. Acquire and apply theatre making skills in analyzing and transforming the play text into a performance.
4. Work collaboratively in small groups to explore, create and perform excerpts of the selected plays.
5. Reflect and consolidate learning through practicing the skills, making observations on peers, and giving constructive meaningful feedbacks.

Course Schedule and Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Matching ILO
PHASE 1: Play texts in different genres			
1	8 Feb	Introduction to the relationship between theatre and culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring the significance of re-telling and transforming life experiences and stories through theatre and drama as an art form. - Introducing the selected plays to be studied in the course. 	ILO1
2	15 Feb	<i>Antigone</i> by Jean Anouilh and Sophocles: cultural background and meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing understanding of the cultural background of the play in the two versions written by ancient Greek playwright Sophocles and the modern French playwright Jean Anouilh. - Exploring the meaning of the play through experiencing the actions and emotions of the characters in the play. 	ILO 1,2,3
3	22 Feb	<i>Antigone</i> by Jean Anouilh and Sophocles: the naturalistic style and metaphors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring the metaphors used to contain deeper and universal meaning in a naturalistic narrative - Practicing skills to embody complex character through naturalistic acting style - Excerpts from the modern version of the script will be studied. 	ILO 1,2,3
4	1 Mar	<i>Metamorphosis</i> by Franz Kafka & Steven Berkoff and Physical theatre style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examining the cultural background of the play created by German novelist Franz Kafka, and the British actor, director and playwright Steven Berkoff. - Exploring the meaning of the play by experiencing the actions and emotions of the characters in the play. 	ILO 1,2,3
5	8 Mar	<i>Metamorphosis</i> by Franz Kafka & Steven Berkoff and Physical theatre style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring the characteristic and significance of physical theatre and stylized story-telling. - Practicing the techniques of using stylized physical movements for the presentation of absurd narrative. 	ILO 1,2,3

		- The play script of the staged version of Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff will be studied.	
6	15 Mar	<i>The Coffin is Too Big for The Hole</i> by Kuo Pao Kun: cultural background and meaning - Exploring how the cultural values issues are examined by the Singaporean Chinese director and playwright Kuo Pao Kun in a symbolic way through a solo piece. - Exploring the meaning of the cultural symbols in the play through experiencing the dramatic actions in the play.	ILO 1,2,3
7	22 Mar	<i>The Coffin is Too Big for The Hole</i> by Kuo Pao Kun: solo work and symbolic style - Exploring the characteristics of chorus works and solo works in story-telling, and how they can work together. - Practicing the techniques required to perform chorus work and solo work, including the use of symbolic movements, simple props, use of space and tempo.	ILO 1,2,3
8	29 Mar	Reflection on the three plays and forming small companies - Reflecting on the meaning of all the three plays, their connection to the culture and time, and the significance of different performing styles. - Students form small companies. Each company chooses one play and a section within the play that they want to present at the end of the course.	ILO 4, 5
	5 Apr	<i>No Class (public holiday)</i>	
PHASE 2: Applying Skills, Rehearsal & Presentation			
9	12 Apr	Script analysis, finding the rhythm, creating the space - All students will become performers in the presentation. Some students can also take on the roles of director and designers. The entire group of students will work together collaboratively to create the presentation - First reading and basic analysis of the selected excerpt will be done. - Students work out the use of space for the selected excerpt.	ILO 2,3,4
10	19 Apr	Transforming the text into actions, from page to stage	ILO 2,3,4

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students apply the drama knowledge acquired to interpret and transform the play text into performing actions in space for the specific style and cultural meaning. - Students work out all the physical actions in space and start learning the lines in the excerpt. 	
11	26 Apr	Practicing specific performing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students apply performing skills acquired to perform the characters in the chosen play text for the specific style and cultural meaning. - Students work out the detailed movements, expressions of speeches, rhythm, the use of space and the use of props if any, for the chosen excerpt. 	ILO 2,3,4
12	3 May	Final Rehearsal & feedbacks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students continue to rehearse the performance to further polish the movements, speech, rhythm and spacing. - Students may rehearse with simple props and/or sound effects. - Each group will receive feedbacks from the instructor to help them polish the performance. 	ILO 4,5
13	10 May	Final Performances, comments and reflections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-class performance with a small invited private audience, followed by a self & peer assessment. - Comments from the facilitator on each group's performance. Students will reflect and share their learning through guided discussion. - Instructions on critical commentary will be given. 	ILO 4,5

Assessment Tasks

Course Contribution & Attendance (30%)	<p>Student participate and contribute to creative group work; give short presentations, take part in discussions and reflections.</p> <p>As students will learn and apply skills and knowledge in each lesson, and will often work in small groups, it is important to actively participate in the practical work with their classmates in order to help themselves and others gain better understanding about the knowledge the skills being taught.</p> <p>Late for 10 minutes or above will be counted as late attendance.</p>
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	<p>Students who have been absent for more than 30% of the total class hours (including any reason such as illness or other university functions) will not be allowed to join any group to do the final presentation, only solo presentation will be accepted, and no further individual guidance will be provided by the instructor.</p>
<p>Final Presentation (35%)</p>	<p>Each group of students will be required to give a 15-20 mins long performance of an excerpt of the play chosen by themselves.</p> <p>The final presentation will require students to fully apply all the knowledge and skills taught in the course within one piece of coherent work. It will provide strong evidence on students' learning progress in the course.</p>
<p>Reflective Journal (20%)</p>	<p>Students will do writing, drawing and planning for the analysis as well as the rehearsals of the plays throughout the course. Students will need to hand in 1 reflective journal of about 1000 words on their creative process, e.g. how they make their artistic decisions for the excerpts of the play they have chosen, how they overcome difficulties in the rehearsal process. Specific guided questions will be provided by the instructor to facilitate the journal writing.</p> <p>The reflective writing will help students articulate and consolidate their learning experience gained in the class. The writing will provide students the opportunity to connect their practical work with theories and to help them make more detailed and analytical reflection.</p> <p>Submission deadline: 11:59, 15 May 2022</p>
<p>Self-Peer Assessment (15%)</p>	<p>Students will produce another piece of reflective writing of about 1000 words to critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their own group's performance and the other groups' performances.</p> <p>As drama is a highly collaborative art form, it is beneficial that the students carefully assess their own learning as well as what they have learned from working with others. The self & peer assessment will help students examine their creative and learning process with greater depth.</p> <p>Submission deadline: 11:59, 15 May 2022</p>

Late Assignment Policy

A 10% per day penalty will be applied to LATE submission. Overdue more than one week will receive no mark.

Recommended Reading Materials

1. Kuo, P (1990) *The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole And Other Plays*. Singapore. Times Books International.

2. Berkoff, S (1988) *The Trial: Metamorphosis: In The Penal Colony: Playscript: Three Theatre Adaptations from Franz Kafka*.
3. Anouilh, J (1987) *Antigone*. London. Methuen Drama.

Academic Honor Code

- You must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work you do throughout your program of study.
- As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
- Sanctions will be imposed if you are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty. Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (<http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html>)