

THE CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY
Calle Harinas, 18, 41001 Seville

SPAN 360S 20TH CENTURY SPANISH THEATER
Professor Mercedes Díaz Sánchez

SUMMER

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course seeks to introduce the student to Spanish theater of the 20th century. We will study the innovative nature of 20th century theater, and contrast it with the Romantic, Naturalist and *costumbrista* theater of the 19th century. In the 20th century new and important interpretations of theater have emerged which in time come to mix with the forms of classic theater.

The 20th century begins with important historical, political and social events, which to some extent will change human consciousness. Marxist ideology, the First World War, the Russian Revolution of 1917, Freud, the artistic experiments of the vanguardists... have also caused theater to take a different path. The idea of a ideological or philosophical court theater, developed so well by the classics Euripides, Sophocles and Seneca, among others, is taken up once more, as is the idea of theater as a means of subversion and social and political criticism, or as a cry of rage and incomprehension in the face of a tragic situation like the Civil War in Spain.

Valle-Inclán, García Lorca, Buero Vallejo and Miguel Mihura are artists of unequalled quality in 20th century theater. We can also cite Villaespesa, Marquina, Benavente, Alfonso Paso and others closer to us, like Antonio Gala or Fernando Fernán Gómez.

The goal of this course is to inform the student about these authors, along with a broad vision of the historical context, and the personal circumstances of the authors.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Course work will be divided between presentations on theory, reading of the texts followed by discussion in class, and participation in cultural activities related to the course: attendance at theatrical productions as available, viewing video versions of theatrical works (to be shown outside of class time), and participation in the literary *tertulias* organized by the Real Ateneo of Seville.

All course work is based on the daily participation of the student, guided in his/her reading of the texts by key questions (provided by the instructor) which will assist in the comprehension of the works. In addition, the student will submit a final paper on a work related to the course, but not read for class. The instructor will distribute a list of possible authors and works, and the student, with the professor's help, will select one and plan the paper. The final paper must be between 8-10 pages, double-spaced.

EVALUATION

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Participation.....	25%
Final paper.....	25
Quizzes.....	25
Final examination.....	25

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

- Ramón M. del Valle-Inclán: *Luces de bohemia*. Madrid, Ed. Espasa Calpe, 1989.
- Federico Barcí Lorca. *La casa de Bernarda Alba*. Madrid, Ed. Cátedra, 1992.
- Antonio Buero Vallejo: *Historia de una escalera*. Madrid, Ed. Espasa Calpe, 1987.
- Enrique Jardiel Poncela: *Cuatro Corazones con freno y march atrás*. Barcelona, Vicens Vives, 1996.

If time permits:

- José Luis Alonso de Santos: *La estanquera de Vallecas*. Madrid, Ed. Castalia, 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Francisco Ruiz Ramón: *Historia del teatro español. Siglo XX*. Madrid, Cátedra, 1986.
- José García Templado: *El teatro español actual*. Madrid, Anaya, 1992.
- Luciano Garía Lorenzo: *El teatro español hoy*. Barcelona, Planeta, 1975.

These are basic reference works; a specific bibliography will be distributed in class for each topic.

SCHEDULE:

1. Introduction to the Theater of the 20th Century
 - Modernist theater.
 - Naturalist and *costumbrista* theater.
2. Theater prior to the Civil War
 - Ramón del Valle-Inclán.
 - Work of Benavente.
 - The theater of the Machado brothers.

3. The Generation of '27
 - Federico García Lorca
 - Rafael Alberti

4. Theater after the Civil War
 - Social Theater
 - Antonio Buero Vallejo
 - Alfonso Sastre
 - Comedy
 - Miguel Mihura
 - Enrique Jardiel Poncela

5. Most Recent Years
 - Independent Theater/University Theater
 - Experimentation with New Forms of Expression:
 - =José Ruibal, Luis Matilla, Martínez Ballesteros, Francisco Nieva, etc.
 - Antonia Gala
 - Fernando Fernán Gómez
 - José Luis Alonso de Santos.

IMPORTANT:

The nature of this course makes attendance mandatory; one day's absence is equivalent to the loss of a week in a semester course.

The use of English is not permitted in class.