

AT507 RB Practical Research Project 3 credits

Content

This class positions you as a director / dramaturg selecting and staging a piece of work of your own choice. In considering the current influences and movements in British and European Theatre, you will focus on the work of a contemporary theatre practitioner and identify the key elements of their methodology, the influences upon their work and their influence on others.

Practical Research Project (Tutor: Dana Blackstone)

You will be asked to initiate your own practical research project within an ensemble of four or five fellow students in a designated rehearsal period building to a performance before an audience of your peers. Your choice of subject will be agreed in negotiation with and approved by your tutor. The final practical exploration will be presented in a studio performance and should aim to balance a demonstration of the practitioner's work with an analysis of that work. This seminar presentation - together with a major written assignment - comprises a research project which investigates a particular area of study through practical and theoretical analysis.

As well as initiating and directing your own project, you will participate as a performer / director in the projects of other students over the rehearsal/presentation period of the class.

Written Assignment

An essay in which you should aim to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the work of at least one post-war European playwright / theatre practitioner
- demonstrate an understanding of the influences on the development of the contemporary practice / practitioner in question
- understand the methods and techniques used by the specific theatre practitioner
- identify the ways in which social and political notions are represented in the work of the playwright / practitioner / company.
- inform your essay with an understanding of the insights you offered and conclusions you drew in your practical presentation

Aims

This class aims to enable you to:

- reflect on particular current practices and movements within European theatre and performance
- consider practically the work of contemporary playwrights
- consider the contributions of individual theatre practitioners, companies and organisations
- analyse how current social and ideological issues in Europe are interpreted and reflected within theatre movements, including those in the United States

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this class you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the work of a variety of contemporary playwrights
- demonstrate an understanding of the influences on contemporary European practice
- comprehend the artistic policy and aims of particular companies and organisations
- understand the methods and techniques used by specific theatre practitioners
- identify the ways in which current social and political notions are represented in the work of playwrights, practitioners and companies.

Assessment / Grading

The presentation / performance project presented to the class is evaluated based on: commitment, specificity, rigor of engagement with the exercise and incorporation of key concepts laid out in AT504 RB The Play in Performance, AT505 / AT506 RB Collaborative Theatre Practices

Practical participation (as Director / Actor) - 35%

Presentation (Content / Delivery) - 35%

Written Assignment (2,500 words) - 30%