

Ritual Aspects of Theatre and Performing Arts (A000765)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size		(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)			
Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	50.0h
Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022					
A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture		45.0h
			group work		5.0h
Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022					
Nellis, Steff		LW17	staff member		
Van Oostveldt, Bram		LW17	lecturer-in-charge		
Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022				crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies				5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies				5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Stage and Media arts, ritual, community

Position of the course

This advanced course is intended to help students acquire insight into the connection between ritual, theatre and cultural and social performances in the past and in the present day.

Contents

In this course we will examine how the performing arts always had a close relationship with rituals. We will look into the history of theatre to analyze these connections between performing arts and rituals, both in practice and in theory, depending on time, context and medium. We start from a theoretical view of how the ritual can be interpreted from an anthropological point of view (Arnold Van Gennep and Victor Turner) and its important influence on Performance Studies (Richard Schechner). From this anthropological definition of ritual, we will examine ritual aspects of the Western performing arts within a historical perspective. We will also analyze in which way rituals pose existential questions, thereby connecting Greek tragedy to Performance Art today. Above, we will delve into the theatrical dimension of important religious and political rituals in early modern history and how they initiated an increasing cultural comparative perspective during the Enlightenment. Ultimately, we will look at how rituals have shaped the image of non-Western cultures from a negative as well as a positive point of view.

Rituals are deeply rooted within their cultural and historical context and are therefore always changing. Today we live in a period in which the rituals by which we mark our lives (birth, marriage, death) both collectively and individually, are often considered unimportant. The ritual therefore requires new forms and new functions today. But how can we do that? How can we design new rituals that are meaningful for a larger community and ensure recognition? How should we formalize these new rituals in a strict framework as was previously the case? Doesn't this require a new approach to the essence of the ritual itself? What does this say about our time? During the semester, we will address these questions through a workshop given by a specialist in the field.

Initial competences

- Insight into the methods of performance analysis
- Basic knowledge about the new theatre history
- Successful participation in 'Methodologie van de Podium- en Mediale Kunsten' (2nd bachelor, 'Introduction into Theatre- and Performance Studies'), or knowledge of the taught content acquired in another way.
- The application of theoretical models to performance analysis.

Final competences

- 1 Detailed knowledge about theoretical concepts of rituals in Performance studies and anthropology.
- 2 Detailed knowledge about the ritual functions and the community education in historical and contemporary performing arts.
- 3 Detailed knowledge about the ritual function of antique theatre and its reception.
- 4 Detailed knowledge about the theatricality of individual and collective rituals in Western and non-Western societies.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with powerpoints, performance fragments and background literature; it is expected that students prepare the seminars at home by using the texts in the reader. Thematic group presentations. Workshop with expert in the field

Learning materials and price

Reader online via Ufora

References**Course content-related study coaching**

Prof. dr. Bram Van Oostveldt
Interactive support via Ufora
Individual support during office-hours, Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

The "periodegebonden" evaluation (written exam) counts for 70% and the "niet-periodegebonden" evaluation (participation in terms of group presentation) counts for 30%. The student has to participate in each of the evaluation forms in order to get a final exam result. If the student does not pass the "niet-gebonden" evaluation (presentation), there will be a second chance (compensating activity) in between the first and the second exam period.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled

3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of
the faculty of Arts and philosophy