

History of Modern Theatre (A005282)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Cosijn, Remi

LW17

staff member

Stalpaert, Christel

LW17

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Art Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Literature](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

theatre, performing arts, history

Position of the course

This introductory course gives a historical overview of the European innovations in the theatre from 1880 until the second half of the twentieth century. The course helps students to acquire an insight into the artistic and discursive production of stage artists and to recognize its relevance for contemporary theatre-makers. Students acquire elementary skills in analyzing the available sources concerning the performing arts in Europe and develop a critical perspective on particular patriarchal, colonial, and eurocentric discourses in modern West-European theatre.

Exchange students may take up this course unit. An individual English learning trajectory is set for. Exchange students will be set an alternative exam.

Contents

This training unit offers a historical survey of the European innovations in theatre from 1880 until the second half of the twentieth century (e.g. Antoine, Wagner, Appia, Stanislavski, Brecht,...). Special attention is given to the relation to the other arts. There is also a critical consideration of particular patriarchal, colonial and eurocentric discourses in modern West-European theatre.

Initial competences

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Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge of the field of the (end of) 19th en 20th-century performing arts, the theatre makers and their manifestos, and their influence on the contemporary performing arts scene.
- 2 To be able to read on an elementary level the available sources testifying of the many forms of theatre in the (late) nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- 3 To develop a critical perspective on particular patriarchal, colonial, and eurocentric discourses in modern West-European theatre.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures (36A) with reflective moments on the interpretation of historical sources testifying of the artistic and discursive production of performing artists in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Recordings are available the day after the lesson and remain available in the exam period.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Theater: een geschiedenis van de podiumkunsten in West-Europa tussen 1870 en 1950.

Indicative price: € 65

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Christel Stalpaert

ISBN : 978-9-46393-759-7

Number of Pages : 448

Online Available : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: audiovisual material

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

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Course content-related study coaching

Reflective moments in class concerning possible exam questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical (100 %): Written examination with three open questions: a survey question, a question about insight and a question on the terminology used.

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodical evaluation counts for 100 % and is a written examination with three open questions: a survey question, a question about insight and a question on the terminology used

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance. No extra course material will be provided.
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time within the regular exam period.
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy