Course title: Arts – The "New" Theatre: Characteristics, Forms, Impact
Course code: MSA0933
Type of course: compulsory
Level of course: MA
Year of study: 2nd
Semester: 3rd
Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6
Name of the lecturer: Odette Blumenfeld
Course objective: The course aims at acquisition of new notions operating in the studies dedicated with performance arts, insisting on the mutations occurring in the traditional esthetics of drama through the appearance of a new area – *performance* studies. The students should be able to establish dialectical relationships of continuity and clash between the American theatre of the last decades and the American avant-garde of the 60s.
Course contents: "New" Theater: definition, characteristics, derived traits; the semantic evolution of the words performance, its meanings in various areas. Performance arts: the *Happening*; the *Agitprop*; the *Acto*; the *Afro-American protesting theatre,* exemplified by types such as the poetic collage, the ritual theater, the revolutionary play; "street" theater, "ritualized" theater, image theater, ambiental theater. Impact**:** the echoes of this avant-garde on a series of playwrights evolving from the margin to the center: *Sam Shepard*; representatives of Afro-American theater: A*drienne Kennedy, Suzan-Lori Parks*; female voices in Hispano-American theater: *Maria Irene Fornes and Cherrie Moraga*; Queer Theater: *Tony Kushner, David Henry Hwang, Holly Hughes*.
Recommended reading: Bial, Henry, 2003. *The Performance Studies Reader*, London: Routledge; Case, Sue-Ellen (ed.), 1990. *Performing Feminisms: Feminist Critical Theory and Theater*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; Cohn, Ruby, 1991. *New American Dramatists: 1960-1990*, London: Macmillan; Robinson, Marc, 1994. *The Other American Drama*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; Schechner, Richard, 1998. *Performance Theory*, London: Routledge Classics
Assessment methods: (a) mid-term test (written) and seminar participation (40%); (b) final test (60%)
Language of instruction: English