

Course title: Evolution of Literature: Diachrony of Forms and Genres

Course code: MCEN0812

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: MA

Year of study: 1st

Semester: 1st

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 7

Name of the lecturer: Odette Blumenfeld

Course objective: The course aims to familiarize the students with the main evolutions in the British drama of the 20th century. At the end of the course, the students will be able to present and to define new species in the dramatic genre, to make connections between theater and philosophy (the theater of the absurd) and to operate with theoretical concepts such as intertextuality in analyzing some modern plays.

Course contents: The course will focus on G. B. Shaw (to define species such as the problem-play, the Gilbertian comedy, the philosophical play, the historical drama), Synge (underlining the concept of lyrical tragedy), T. S. Eliot (his contribution to the revival of the verse drama), „the angry young men“ (Osborne, Delaney, Behan) and the theater of the absurd (Beckett, Pinter). The course will also deal with modern rewritings of Shakespearean plays (Stoppard, Bond) as well as the feminist themes in the plays of Churchill and Wertebaker.

Recommended reading: Chambers, Colin, 1987. *Playwright's Progress : Patterns of Postwar British Drama*. Oxford : Amber Lane Press ; Esslin, Martin, 1961. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. New York: Doubleday; Taylor, John Russell, 1971. *Anger and After*. London: Mathuen Co. Ltd.; Worth, K. J., 1969. *Revolutions in Modern English Drama*. London: G. Bell and Sons; Zeifman, Hirsch and Cynthia Zimmermann (eds.), 1993. *Contemporary British Drama, 1970-1990*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Assessment methods: (a) mid-term test (written) and seminar participation (40%) and (b) final test (60%)

Language of instruction: English