COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF THEATER
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Dramatic Arts
UCEAP Course Number 184
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF THEATER
UCEAP Transcript Title PHIL&AESTH THTR
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale degree program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. This advanced course provides students with the ability to: acquire basic critical and methodological tools for the study of works and authors linked in an interdisciplinary sense to the philosophies of theatre and to the theories of representation, in an intercultural context; acquire advanced knowledge of the main historiographic, critical, and aesthetic perspectives of theatre studies in the contemporary international scene, also thanks to the analysis and collective discussion of works that are paradigmatically susceptible to a philosophical reading; arrive at a complete overview of the aesthetics and theories of theatre whose area of application includes both past theatre works and contemporary performances. In terms of skills, this knowledge provides the student with analytical and philosophical-aesthetic tools that enable him/her to inscribe past and present performances in a wide and conscious framework of meaning, within a polyphonic history of scenic culture marked by systemic continuities and paradigm shifts.

The course begins with a reflection on some fundamental philosophical ideas within the symbolic grammar of the theatrical event, namely space, time, body, and voice. These concepts are connected to corresponding theatrical experiences—not as mere illustrations or examples, but as scenic moments inherently full of meaning—belonging to different historical and cultural periods. In the second part of the course, the focus shifts to the actor and the complex relationship between person and character. To explore this relationship, attention is given to mimesis as both a process of identification and imitation. To ground these theoretical considerations in specific practices, Diderot's *Paradox of the Actor* is read and analyzed, situating this work within the context of 18th-century French theatre. The final lessons of the module are devoted to experimenting with individual and collective critical-philosophical writing exercises. These exercises are related to performances that students will have attended during the course period, either live or via video.

Language(s) of Instruction

Italian

Host Institution Course Number
B8712

Host Institution Course Title
FILOSOFIA ED ESTETICA DEL TEATRO (1) (LM)

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
LM in MUSIC AND THEATER STUDIES

Host Institution Department
ARTS

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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