

**FACULDADE DE FILOSOFIA, LETRAS E CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS DA
UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO**

Departamento de Letras Modernas
Área de Estudos Lingüísticos e Literários em Inglês

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE 2017 (FLM 0586)

Maria Sílvia Betti

What this subject aims at

To introduce students to the characteristics of **theatre plays of different styles** and periods and to the discussion of their relationship with **stage performance**.

Why this subject matters

Reading plays and watching theater productions of different types is essential in the **formation of readers, researchers and literature teachers** and of their analytical sensibility and critical thinking.

The study of the characteristics of plays of different styles is **necessary to the understanding of the modern and contemporary world**.

Reading and discussing the plays and critical texts in the program will contribute to the development of the students' critical understanding of the ways in which plays and stage performances **represent society and/or respond to its historical changes**.

Plays in the 2017 Program

Modern and Contemporary Realism

The Crucible (1953), by Arthur Miller (1915-2005)

Race (2009), by David Mamet (1947-)

Epic Theatre

Our Town (1938), by Thornton Wilder (1897-1975)

The Baden-Baden Lesson on Consent, a learning play (1929) by Bertolt Brecht/Slatan Dudow/Elizabeth Hauptmann (Brecht 1898-1956; Dudow 1903-1963; Hauptmann 1897-1973)

Mother Courage and her Children (1938), By Bertolt Brecht

Theatre of the so called "Absurd"

The Bald Soprano. An Anti Play by Eugene Ionesco (1909-1994)

Act without words, by Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)

Krapp's last tape, by Samuel Beckett

Contemporary Theatre

Hamletmachine (1981-82), by Heiner Müller (1929-1995)

Evaluation

Mid Semester Evaluation (worth 04 points) + **Final Evaluation** (worth 06 points)=
Final Grade

Mid Semester Evaluation: a Performance Review (worth 4 points) due October 02.
Detailed Guidelines will be given.

Final Evaluation: two options: Option 1) a Final Take Home Test assigned on November 27 and due December 04, or Option 2) volunteer-based seminars to take place on December 04. (both the Take Home Test and the Seminars are worth 6 points).

Extra class talks: Mondays 10-11.00; 18-19. Room 27. (Make an appointment:
introteatro2015@gmail.com)

Syllabus

August

- 07 Introductory Class
- 14 Types of theaters, types of stages, types of plays.
- 21 Elements of the text: a preview of the characteristics of the plays in the Program.
- 28 *The Crucible*

September

- 04 No class
- 11 *Race*
- 18 Guidelines for the Mid Semester Evaluation, due October 02.
- 25 *Our Town*

October

- 02 Students turn in the Mid Semester Evaluation.
- 09 *The Baden-Baden Lesson on Consent*), a learning play.
- 16 *Mother Courage and her children*.
- 23 *The Bald Soprano. An anti play*.
- 30 *Act without words I and II*

November

- 06 *Krapp's last tape*
- 13 *Hamletmachine*
- 20 No class
- 27 General review. Final Take Home Test will be assigned at the end of the class
Seminar groups will be informed in print (with names and emails) by the
volunteers.

December

- 04 Final Take Home Test.

Number of classes: 16