

## University Courses

### *The History of Italian Theatre*

#### ***Duration***

4 or 6 weeks. 2,5 hours of lesson given both in English and Italian twice a week.

#### ***Prerequisites***

Sufficient understanding of morpho-syntactical structures of the Italian language and a fair level of conversational skills are required.

#### ***Materials***

Students will be provided with reading materials. Audio-visual and multimedia materials will be utilized in the classroom.

#### ***Objectives***

To guide students through the historical development of the Italian theatre. Special attention will be given to the comprehension and use of language specific to the discipline.

Students will be given the opportunity to analyze, interpret and discuss contents and techniques of Italian theatre. Students will be able to study the role of theatre in its social and cultural context. They may produce and perform scenes.

#### ***Methodology***

Lectures as well as interactive group activities will be utilized. Plays in their entirety as well partial sequences will be presented as part of the course. An excursion to a theatrical production may be scheduled.

#### ***Contents***

The course will be divided into 6 units according to the historical chronological sequence. At the end of each unit, an oral test will be given. Furthermore, throughout the course additional quizzes may be given to verify retention of the materials presented. A written final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course. The exam may be in the form of multiple choice, true or false, short answer and essay questions.

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No.	Title	Contents	Tools	Duration (hrs)
1	Theatre in ancient Rome; The theatre of 16th century; La Commedia dell'Arte	Short introduction to the genre: from Greek classical theatre to the Roman theatre of Plauto and Terenzio, the ancient "atellane". The comedy of manners; The fixed masks and the theatre of the actor/playwright Angelo Beolco detto il Ruzante	Photocopies, extracts from critical essays.	5
2	The theatre through the 17 <sup>th</sup> and the 18 <sup>th</sup> century	The melodrama of Claudio Monteverdi. The reformation of melodrama of Metastasio; The reformation of the comedy of Carlo Goldoni; The literary tragedy of Vittorio Alfieri.	Viewing of "Orfeo" or "L'incoronazione di Poppea" in DVD or VHS; Viewing of "La clemenza di Tito" or "Il re pastore" in DVD or VHS	5
3	The literary tragedies of Alessandro Manzoni; Verism Theatre	<i>Adelchi</i> and <i>Il conte di Carmagnola</i> ; <i>Cavalleria rusticana</i> and <i>La lupa</i> by Giovanni Verga	Viewing of "Cavalleria rusticana" by Mascagni in DVD or VHS	5
4	The theatre of Pirandello	The relationship between fiction and reality, and the invention of a new theatre machine in the theatre of Luigi Pirandello	Viewing of "Pensaci Giacomino" or "Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore", "Enrico IV", etc. in DVD or VHS	5
5	Theatre from 1960 to 2000	The theatre of direction; Eduardo de Filippo; Carmelo Bene	Entire or partial viewing of "Napoli milionaria", "Natale in casa Cupiello", etc. in DVD or VHS	5
6	Dario Fo and Marco Paolini	The never-ending creativity of theatre	Partial viewing of "Mistero buffo" and "Vajont" in VHS	5