

Queen Mary Summer School 2020

SUM501D London Theatre and Performance

School of English & Drama

Course outline

Date: 20 July - 7 August 2020

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course leader: Dr Catherine Silverstone (c.silverstone@qmul.ac.uk)

Assessment: 2,000 word essay (70%) and a group presentation (30%)

Course description:

This course draws on London's rich theatre and performance history, and the wide-ranging opportunities the city offers to engage with historical and contemporary theatre and performance. It explores how historical, social, cultural and architectural contexts produce meaning through play texts and in the theatre. You will be introduced to a range of ways of analysing plays and performances in relation to the conditions in which they are created.

You'll spend the first week on visits related to the work of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and in seminars. The second week will normally focus on visits and seminars related to theatre from the 19th century to the present day. Your last week will look at performance beyond the literary play text, for example, Live and Performance Art, Club Performance, Performance in Galleries, Performance Documentation. You will normally have two theatre visits or field trips per week.

Learning outcomes:

You will be able to:

- read play texts and live performances closely and critically
- develop independent and imaginative interpretations of plays and live performances
- clearly, accurately and effectively articulate ideas through discussion, formal presentation and writing
- make connections between texts, performances, cultural histories and conditions of performance
- respond creatively and imaginatively to research tasks
- discuss and present information within a wide range of contexts
- test, interpret and analyse cultural products and information
- work with others to define and refine idea and arguments.

Approximate cost:

The tuition fees for the **London Theatre and Performance** course are **£1,700**. There may be additional costs for field trips, such as tickets for performances, which will be in the region of **£20 - £30**.

All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

2,000 word essay (70%) and a group presentation (30%)

Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

Teaching:

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week.

Course content:

Session 1	Introduction and key terms
Session 2	Spectatorship at the Globe
Session 3	Restoration women onstage and shifting spectatorship
Session 4	Theatre audiences: riots and protests in the 18 th century
Session 5	National theatres
Session 6	New writing: reflecting contemporary London
Session 7	Performance and the gallery
Session 8	Tate / Soundwalk / Presentation preparation
Session 9	Student presentations / Performance and public space
Session 10	Pub and club performance
Session 11	Live art
Session 12	Theatre and feeling

Suggested reading:

Frances Babbage, 'Active audiences: spectatorship as research practice', *Studies in Theatre and Performance*, 36.1 (2016), pp. 48-51.

Jen Harvie, *Theatre & the City* (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), pp. 22-25.

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.