



Global Curriculum Program

Comparative Studies of Eastern and Western Theatre Cultures

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Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 52 course hours. One course hour is 45 minutes.

Recommended Credit: 3

Course Description

Taking this course, students will have opportunities to watch the fantastic performance of traditional Chinese drama (Peking Opera, Kun Opera or Yue Opera) at downtown theatre as well as watching videos of Greek tragedies, Indian dramas and western modern plays (some western plays are shown in the style of traditional Chinese drama). After finishing this course, students would have a good understanding of the similarities and differences between Chinese and western drama, and acquire a special perspective to look at the intercultural communication between China and the rest of the world.

Learning Objectives

On the completion of this course, students will:

- (1) Gain fundamental knowledge about the three ancient dramas: Greek drama, Indian Sanskrit drama, and traditional Chinese drama.
- (2) Know about the dissemination and reception of western drama in China.
- (3) Learn about the dissemination and reception of traditional Chinese drama in the west.
- (4) Know about the similarities and differences between Chinese and western dramas.
- (5) Have a good understanding of the intercultural communication between China and the rest of the world in the perspective of dramatic art.

Required Course Textbooks

(1) *Comparative Studies in Eastern and Western Theatre* (Compiled and provided by the teacher)

(2) Colin Mackerras. *Chinese Theatre: From Its Origins to the Present Day*

http://www.amazon.cn/Chinese-Theatre-From-Its-Origins-to-the-Present-Day/dp/0824812204/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1451094619&sr=8-2&keywords=Chinese+theatre

(3) Tang Xianzu. *The Peony Pavilion*

<http://www.amazon.cn/%E7%89%A1%E4%B8%B9%E4%BA%AD-%E8%8B%B1%E6>



http://www.amazon.cn/B0011A0FHQ/ref=pd_rhf_se_s_cp_5?ie=UTF8&dpID=51Lcni1YyYL&dpSrc=sims&preST=SL500_SR94%2C135_&refRID=0HRD4X6CA637C15EV7NZ

(4) Horowitz, E. P (Ernest Philip) *The Indian Theatre: A Brief Survey of the Sanskrit Drama.*

http://www.amazon.cn/The-Indian-Theatre-A-Brief-Survey-of-the-Sanskrit-Drama-E-P-Horowitz/dp/1113546549/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1451095125&sr=8-1&keywords=Indian+sanskrit+drama

(5) *Sakoontalaa, Or, the Lost Ring; An Indian Drama Tr. Into English Prose and Verse from the Sanskrit of Kalidasa*

http://www.amazon.cn/Sakoontalaa-Or-the-Lost-Ring-An-Indian-Drama-Tr-Into-English-Prose-and-Verse-from-the-Sanskrit-of-Kalidasa/dp/1150864109/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1451095125&sr=8-2&keywords=Indian+sanskrit+drama

(6) Granham Ley. *A Short Introduction to Ancient Greek Theatre*

http://www.amazon.cn/A-Short-Introduction-to-the-Ancient-Greek-Theatre-Ley-Graham/dp/0226477606/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&qid=1451095523&sr=8-9&keywords=Greek+theatre

(7) Other materials provided by the teacher

Course Requirements and Assessment

Read assigned materials.

Attend classes and participate in class discussions.

Give an oral presentation in class and write an essay.

Watch the performance of traditional Chinese drama and other plays.

Graded Work	% of Grade
Attendance and class performance	30%
Presentation and essay	30%
Final examination	40%

Methods of Instruction

Instruction methods include lectures, presentations, discussions, and watching the performance of plays.

Reading Assignments



During the semester, the professor will provide additional article.

Weekly Schedule (Tentative)

- Week 1 Orientation, No Class
- Week 2 Introduction & comparison: Origins of Chinese and western dramas
- Week 3 Introduction to Greek drama
- Week 4 Greek tragedies and their reception in China
- Week 5 Introduction to Indian Sanskrit drama
- Week 6 Indian Sanskrit plays and their reception in China
- Week 7 Introduction to traditional Chinese drama
- Week 8 Visit downtown theatre, watching Peking Opera
- Week 9 Chinese drama in the west, esp. in the United States of America
- Week 10 Visit downtown theatre, watching Kun Opera or Yue Opera
- Week 11 Western classic drama (esp. Shakespeare) and its reception in China
- Week 12 Western modern drama (esp. Ibsen) and its reception in China
- Week 13 Watch Ibsen's play *The Lady from the Sea* in the form of traditional Chinese drama
- Week 14 Similarities and differences between Chinese and western dramas
- Week 15 Final Examination

*The above schedule is subject to change – with adequate notice to students.