

TEACHING GUIDE FOR: 30022 UIB English Theatre Company

Subject identification: 30022 UIB English Theatre Company

Lecturer: Juanjo Bermúdez de Castro
Office: BE-13, Ramon Llull
Credits: 6 ECTS (total 150 hours)
Teaching language: ENGLISH
Teaching period: 12 February 2018 – 31 May 2018
Schedule: Tuesdays 15:00 - 18:30
Room: Aula Magna, Guillem Cifre

Contextualization

The “English Theatre at the UIB” course offers the opportunity to experience, in first person and from different perspectives, all the steps in the enriching process of staging a theatre play in English in front of an audience. Once the play is chosen (among those written by relevant English or North American playwrights, including William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward, Harold Pinter, Caryl Churchill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Sam Shepard...), the students will rewrite each act and scene of the play themselves adapting it to a 21st-century context. After these initial “Dramaturgy Sessions” in which all of them participate, the students will be divided into eight working groups according to their interests (either on-stage or off-stage), and they will be focused on a particular area-project needed to get the play off the ground making it come to life all together: 1. Acting; 2. Directing; 3. Production; 4. Scenery; 5. Music & Sound effects; 6. Lighting & Visual Effects; 7. Costume Design, Makeup & Hairstyling; and 8. Filming & Editing. After this four-month total immersion into an authentic team-working atmosphere in English, the play will be finally staged at the Auditorium of Guillem Cifre (UIB) at the end of the course in front of a real audience. It will also be filmed, edited and projected at the cinema CineCiutat, in Palma de Mallorca, in order to open the activity even more to real spectators and citizens of Mallorca and so enhancing the cultural landscape of our community.

Requirements

- Some basic level of English (B1) is required as the working/teaching/performing language will be English throughout the entire course.
- The students must bring their laptops or tablets with them to every class especially to the initial “Dramaturgy Sessions” because they will rewrite the play collaboratively by using Google Drive and Dropbox.

Skills

Specific: Rewriting and Staging in working groups a theatre play in English considerably addresses and undoubtedly improves the four main communicative skills involved in the process of learning a language: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. There is hardly a more creative and more entertaining way to implement and put into practice these four linguistic skills than bringing to life a theatre play within an English speaking theatre company.

Generic: The students will learn aspects of the historical and literary Anglo-American period in which the play was originally written, and by rewriting and adapting the play to a 21st-century context, they will develop their critical thinking skills by analyzing the current political and cultural state of affairs. As they will work in teams in very practical and communicative tasks, they will boost their ability to solve problems and make decisions. Moreover, they will become aware of the importance of each individual's role in order to pursue a common goal, then improving their sense of responsibility within a group

Content

The course contents will be divided into two different parts:

- **Dramaturgy Sessions: Initial Analysis and Rewriting of the Play (4 weeks):** Theoretical introduction to the theatre play, its author, and the literary and historical period in which the play was originally written. Figures of speech in English language. Dramaturgy and close reading of the play. Important themes and symbols. Possible adaptations of the play to a 21st century context. Rewriting of every act and scene of the play in working groups.
- Staging the play (11 weeks):** Research and Work in the different areas-tasks (on-stage and off-stage) that are required and oriented towards the final performance of the play in front of an audience at the end of the course. Each working team will have to hand in a written group project (15-20 pages) at the end of the course in which they will record the process of learning they have experienced in their respective areas. The different working teams will be:
 1. Acting Team
 2. Directing Team
 3. Production Team
 4. Scenery Team
 5. Music & Sound Effects Team
 6. Lighting and Visual Effects Team
 7. Costume Design, Makeup & Hairstyling Team
 8. Filming & Editing Team

Teaching methodology

In-work class activities:

Modality	Name	Type. Group.	Description
Learning to Read a Play (Close Reading)	Analysis & Rewriting of the play	Basic Knowledge of Theatre Theory	The professor will require the students to analyze the play in detail, so that they are able to properly rewrite it and adapt it. The professor will also provide some insightful advice into the theater universe in each and every of the working areas and sections assigned. He will also supervise the correct functioning of each working team.
Rewriting and Adapting a play	Staging the Play (Working Groups: acting, directing, production, scenery, lighting, music...)	&	
Team working		Learn by Doing	

Distance education work activities:

Modality	Name	Type. Group.	Description
Individual Research	Individual Project	Research and Critical Thinking	Each student will have to hand in an individual written project (6-8 pages) related to the area of work she/he chose within the company.

Specific risks and protective measures

All classes will take place in the Aula Magna of Guillem Cifre. In the initial classes of Dramaturgy, in which the students have to use their laptops or tablets to rewrite the play in groups, the classes will not be very different from an ordinary classroom context. However, once the play is rewritten and the working teams are arranged, the students will have direct contact with the real auditorium and stage in which the final play will be performed. In the case of the Lighting and Visual Effects team, an initial class of protective measures will be given by the professor.

Workload estimate

Modality	Name	Hours	ECTS	%
Team working	UIB English Theater Company:	150 hours	6	100%:
	Analysis and Rewriting of the play			10%
	Working Groups			40%
	Group Project			25%
	Individual Research			25%

Student learning assessment

3 Exams-Projects:

1. Final Performance & Self-Evaluation (50%): After the final performance the company will meet for the last class and each student will evaluate individually and orally the quality of her/his own collaboration in the process of staging the play and in the final performance.

2. Group Project (25%): At the end of the course each working team will have to hand in a written group project (15-20 pages) at the end of the course in which they will record the process of learning they have experienced in their respective areas.

3. Individual Project (25%): At the end of the course each student will have to hand in a written individual research project (6-8 pages) on a particular topic related to her/his area of work within the company. The topics will be previously discussed with the teacher.

Resources, bibliography and additional documentation

Basic bibliography

- Boleslavsky, Richard. *Acting: The First Six Lessons*. New York: Theatre Art Books Inn, 1933. Also in New York: Routledge, 2005.
- Brook, Peter. *The Empty Space. A Book about the Theatre: Deadly, Holy, Rough and Immediate*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1968.
- Greenblatt, Stephen (ed.). *The Norton Shakespeare*. London: Norton, 1997. (Only some extracts provided by the professor)

Complementary bibliography

- Berceval, Fernando. *Un taller de drama*. Ciudad Real: Ñaque, 1998.
- Stanislavski, Konstantin. *My Life in Art*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1924. Also in New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Motos Teruel, Tomas. *Prácticas de Dramatización*. Ciudad Real, Ñaque, 2007.

Other resources

- Drama Study Guides in www.sparknotes.com/drama
- No Fear Shakespeare in www.nfs.sparknotes.com
- “How to make Shakespeare easy for English language learners” in <https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-make-shakespeare-easy-english-language-learners>

Lecturers’ office hours

Office/Location	Week day/s	Office hours	Contact details
BE-13 Ramon Llull	Tuesday	18:30-19:30	Telephone: 91717(2679) E-mail: j.bermudezcastro@uib.es