# History of Theatre and Performance (with Workshop)

# History of Theatre and Performance

## Prof. Carla Bino

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to introduce ways of interpreting the history of theatre and of Western performing arts in particular, focusing on periods considered pivotal. There will be a particular focus on aspects connected to dramaturgy, the actor (costumes and performance), space (auditorium and stage), commissioning and audience. By the end of the course, students must possess general knowledge of the history of Western theatre and be able to read and historically and critically interpret theatrical forms from different eras. Moreover, students must be able to demonstrate that they have developed a study method that enables them to independently process historical-theoretical knowledge and discuss it critically.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into four modules:

* theatre and performance in the classical world (Greek-Hellenistic theatre and the theatrical system of Imperial Rome
* medieval Christian forms of theatre
* theatre and entertainment in the modern age (from the Renaissance foundations to the bourgeois stage)
* 20th-century theatre

The course requires students to take part to a related workshop, which is compulsory for attending students. The evaluation of the participation to the workshop will be included in the overall assessment of the exam (please see assessment method).

Furthermore, students will be invited to attend additional workshops and practical activities (that will be specified during the year).

***READING LIST***

*Attending students:*

* C. Bernardi - C. Susa (ed. by), *Storia Essenziale del Teatro,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2005 (chaps: 2 -8)
* S. Mazzoni, *Atlante iconografico,* Titivillus, Pisa, 2003
* C. Bino, *Il dramma e l’immagine. Teorie cristiane della rappresentazione (II-XI sec.)*, Le Lettere, Florence, p. 1-127.
* Close reading of four essays from the book C. Bino, *Scene. Studi sul teatro tra testi, sguardi e attori,* Milan, Educatt, 2018.

*Non-attending students*

Non-attending students will have to study the textbooks specified in the reading list.

In addition to the reading list indicated above, non-attending students will have to define with the lecturer a research work based on **a topic related to the history of theatre.** The lecturer will provide the reading list.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class including videos and sessions with professionals from the world of theatre. Participation in the related workshop. During the course of the year, participation in dedicated workshops and practical classes may be recommended.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment of the learning outcomes will be carried out through two written tests and an oral exam.

Written tests: at the end of Semester 1, there will be an initial written test **for attending students only**, consisting of open questions on the topics covered in Modules 1 and 2. At the end of Semester 2, there will be a second written test **for attending students only**, consisting of open questions on the topics covered in Module 3. Both written tests are composed of questions: each is marked in thirtieths. The written tests are designed to assess students’ ability to provide concise and relevant written answers to specific questions based on the topics of the history of Western theatre analysed in class.

Students who pass the two written exams will have access to the oral exam on the topics covered and texts read for Module 4. Those who fail one or both of the written texts are obliged to retake the part on the syllabus in question in an oral exam.

Oral exam: the final oral exam will be focused on the assessment of the study of the reading list specified above. This exam is designed to assess students’ ability to navigate between the different historical eras, with a focus on the fundamental issues discussed during the course. Students will be assessed on: relevance of their answers, their use of specific terminology, their ability to structure reasoned and coherent argumentation and to identify conceptual links and open questions.

The final mark will take into account the marks obtained in the written tests, the participation to the workshop related to the course, the participation to the additional workshops and practical activities proposed during the year, and the final oral exam.

**Non-attending students** will have to take only the final oral exam, aimed to evaluate the knowledge of the whole course content and the relative reading list.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. Students are nevertheless expected to demonstrate an interest in and intellectual curiosity about the history of theatre and live entertainment.

Students will be able to find useful materials for the course on the dedicated Blackboard page.

Students are strongly encouraged to go to plays, musical concerts and other types of performance.

The lecturer can recommend an itinerary of performances at local theatres.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.