



KIIS PARIS 2, Summer 2018

FR 426: French Literature of the Twentieth Century: French Theatre in Performance

Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters

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Syllabus subject to change

Le théâtre français

Objectives

The goal of this course is to explore the history of the French theater by attending performances of plays in Paris. We will see at least one production per week. Prior to the performances, we will read and discuss the texts of the scheduled play, and, following the performance, continue our discussion through analyses of production choices made by the director and actors. The plays we choose will depend on what is being shown in Paris during the five weeks of our course. We will, however, try to see works from different genres – comedy, tragedy, experimental, etc. – and from different historical periods. We will emphasize textual analysis, as well as principles of production: staging, costumes, acting, set design, lighting, music, etc. The course is taught entirely in French.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be able to:

- discuss the main features of the major theatrical movements in France
- develop a critical language for the analysis of the theater
- explain the relationship between literary form and thematic content of individual texts
- communicate their analyses effectively in oral and written form and in French

Plays [this list is from the last time I taught this course (Summer 2016), to give you an example of what we will do; the list this summer (2018) will depend on what is being produced in Paris]

- Albert Camus, *La Chute*
- Georges Feydeau, *Un fil à la patte*
- Eugène Ionesco, *La cantatrice chauve; La leçon*
- Molière, *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac*

Texts

Students will purchase published copies of the plays once they have arrived in Paris and I have distributed a list of the works to be studied.

Assignments

In addition to writing several short papers, students will complete short, daily assignments which I will not always grade but which I will check in class. I may also give some reading quizzes. The details of these assignments will be given in class.

Participation

Students are expected to participate fully in all discussions, performances, and excursions. Participation will count as an important component of the final course grade (see below).

Attendance (from the KIIS academic policy)

“KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes and mandatory meetings, and to remain with the program for the full academic term. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student’s final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Chronic unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons or special academic activities approved in advance by the course professor.”

Grade

Participation 40%

Daily assignments (and quizzes) (ave.) 15%

Papers (ave.) 45%