Stockholm University  
Department of Culture and Aesthetics  
Theatre Studies  
Cultural Theory and Transnational Performance 2 (Fall 2018, MA-level, 7.5 ECTS)

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Emails will normally be answered within 48 hours, except on weekends and holidays. Office hours by appointment.

Course description
The course provides students with knowledge about contemporary theatre practices in a globalized world. They will apply methods and theories they have acquired in course I to analyze specific theatre examples and will learn about concrete working conditions and performance practices. The syllabus comprises cultural analysis, dramaturgical theory and concepts, studies on postcolonial and intercultural theatre. After having completed the course the students will have acquired the skills:
- to analyze and evaluate transnational theatre and performance practices
- to reflect and adapt their own research and dramaturgical position,
- to develop and to argue for their own alternative approach

Course requirements
- active and qualitative participation at the seminars, including student presentations;
- a written essay (5-6 pages + references and works cited) that critically engages with key arguments and perspectives presented in the course literature and applies some of the main theoretical and methodological concepts onto an independently chosen case study (a transcultural performance, ensemble, theatre artist etc.).

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. Each student may miss one seminar, but an additional absence needs to be compensated with a 3-page written essay that critically discusses the literature assigned for that session. This assignment needs to be handed in no later than the day the final paper is due. If a student has missed three or more classes, a final grade cannot be assigned. Surfing the Internet at leisure or texting during class time as well as excessive lateness or leaving early repeatedly will affect your participation grade. In case of religious observations, students are kindly asked to advice their professor a week before the absence in order to make arrangements for potential make up assignments.
Grading criteria

Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale, ranging from A (Excellent) to F (Fail). A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. Fx and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval, the course requires a minimum grade of E for the written as well as the oral assignments and that all course requirements are met. If a student has received a passing grade (A-E) they are not allowed to repeat the examination in order to receive a higher grade.

A (Excellent): The participant, in written (70%) and oral work (30%)
- identifies, defines and analyses different contemporary theatre practices in a globalised context by applying concepts of cultural theory, postcolonial and intercultural theory in theatre and performance studies from a comprehensive and critically reflective perspective;
- independently formulates a relevant and original research question departing from a broad selection of theoretical concepts and an object of study;
- shows the capacity to structure and communicate knowledge in theatre and performance studies in a comprehensible form. The analysis and argument are perfectly coherent, flawless and of high precision.

B (Very Good): The participant, in written (70%) and oral work (30%)
- identifies, defines and analyses different contemporary theatre practices in a globalised context by applying concepts of cultural theory, postcolonial and intercultural theory in theatre and performance studies from a comprehensive and partly critically reflective perspective;
- independently formulates a relevant research question departing from a relatively broad selection of theoretical concepts and an object of study;
- shows the capacity to structure and communicate knowledge in theatre and performance studies in a comprehensible form. The analysis and argument are coherent and of high quality and of high precision.

C (Good): The participant, in written (70%) and oral work (30%)
- identifies, defines and analyses different contemporary theatre practices in a globalised context by applying concepts of cultural theory, postcolonial and intercultural theory in theatre and performance studies from several, often well developed, but mainly independent perspectives;
- with a certain degree of independence formulates a relevant research question departing from a satisfactory selection of theoretical and an object of study;
- shows the capacity to structure and communicate knowledge in theatre and performance studies in a comprehensible form. The analysis and argument are of high quality and of high precision.
D (Satisfactory): The participant, in written (70%) and oral work (30%) - identifies, defines and analyses different contemporary theatre practices in a globalised context by applying concepts of cultural theory, postcolonial and intercultural theory in theatre and performance studies in a way that, albeit in-depth and elaborate, is decidedly one-dimensional; - with a certain degree of independence formulates an appropriate research question departing from a satisfactory selection of theoretical concepts and an object of study; - shows the capacity to structure and communicate knowledge in theatre and performance studies in a comprehensible form. The analysis and argument are satisfactory.

E (Adequate): The participant, in written (70%) and oral work (30%) - identifies, defines and analyses different contemporary theatre practices in a globalised context by applying concepts of cultural theory, postcolonial and intercultural theory in theatre and performance studies from in a way that is decidedly one-dimensional; - formulates an appropriate research question departing from a satisfactory selection of theoretical concepts and an object of study; - shows the capacity to structure and communicate knowledge in theatre and performance studies in a comprehensible form. The analysis and argument are adequate.

Fx (Insufficient): The participant’s knowledge, skills and abilities display minor flaws, overall or in significant parts, but is given the opportunity to, within one week after instructions from the examiner, submit a supplement to receive a maximum grade E

F (Fail): The participant’s knowledge, skills and abilities display minor flaws, overall or in significant parts. Students with grade F are entitled to take two further examinations to achieve at least grade E. A participant who receives grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner, has the right to request to have its test evaluated by another examiner. The request hereof should be made to the Director of Studies (studierektor). Students may request the test to be offered up to three semesters after it was last offered.

Grades A and B are only awarded if all of the assignments, including potential make up assignments, have been completed by the assigned deadline.
**Required readings**

Some articles are made available as reference copies outside of room 258. Some articles can be accessed on the Mondo course site (www.mondo.su.se). The majority of the readings are essays or book chapters which students can access and retrieve electronically via the Stockholm University Library.

**E-journals**

- Go to the website of the university library (www. [http://su.se/english/library/](http://su.se/english/library/))
- Click on ‘E-journals A-Z’;
- In the search engine, enter the title of the publication that you are looking for (for example Theatre Journal) and press ‘enter’;
- The displayed list of results offers you a number of options or databases to choose from (e.g. JSTOR, Project Muse Standard Collection, EBSCO, Literature Resource Centre, Cambridge Journals Online etc.). Check which timeframes the different databases cover to pick the most relevant for your search and click on it;
- The next page will ask you to sign in with your username and password. Once you have signed in, you will be able to access back issues by year, volume and number to locate and retrieve the article you are looking for.

**E-books**

- Go to the website of the university library (www. [http://su.se/english/library/](http://su.se/english/library/))
- In the search engine, enter (parts of) the title of the book and/or author that you are looking for (for example Taylor Archive Repertoire) and press ‘enter’;
- The displayed list of results from the national library server Libris tells you whether the book is available as an electronic resource. Click on the link, scroll down on the next page and click on the hyperlink that says ‘läs hela’ (transl.: read entire book).
- The next page will ask you to sign in with your username and password. Once you have signed in, you will be able to access the e-book and retrieve selected pages or chapters as .pdf files.
Literature & schedule

Session 1: Cultural translation and ‘the third space’
(Friday, 5 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)


*Please observe: Registered students are expected to have prepared the readings for the first seminar.*

Session 2: Case study: Cultural translations of Tennessee Williams in post-war Europe
(Wednesday, 10 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)


*Students unfamiliar with Tennessee Williams are expected to study the plays *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.**

Session 3: Orientalism

Guest lecture with Dr John Potvin
(Thursday, 11 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)


Session 4: Exile and Migration
(Monday, 15 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)


Students may choose to read Mouawad’s play in either the original French version or any available translation.

Session 5: Cultural adaptation – Case study: Miss Julie
(Friday, 19 October, 13:00-16:00; room 509)


Farber, Yael, Mies Julie: Based on August Strindberg’s Miss Julie, London: Oberon Modern Plays, 2012 (SU library)


Student groups will do research and present on one of the two plays.

Session 6: Intercultural practice or cultural appropriation?
(Wednesday, 24 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)


Session 7: Student presentations
(Friday, 26 October, 13:00-16:00; room 101)

*Students present their ongoing research for the final paper.*

**Friday, 2 November:** deadline for final essay, to be submitted in paper or via email no later than 5PM. Please observe that only the following file formats will be accepted: .doc; .docx; .pdf.