



Comparative Studies of Eastern and Western Theatre Cultures

SHGH THTR 3312

This course is being offered at East China Normal University, CAPA's academic partner in Shanghai. The Chinese academic system differs from the US, particularly with grading. ECNU professors expect students to undertake a good deal of independent study to achieve a high mark in their classes.

ECNU classes fill quickly, so make your selections as soon as possible. Please have an alternative ECNU course in mind in case your first choice is unavailable.

For additional information about this class, please contact the Boston Program Advising Team at 1-800-793-0334.



Global Curriculum Program

Comparative Studies of Eastern and Western Theatre Cultures

Professor: CHEN, Maoqing

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 Textbook

Compiled 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.