

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Séminaire " Théorie des genres " : English Tragedy: before and after

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

Professor Margaret Tudeau-Clayton. Assistants: Matthias Heim, Rahel Orgis.

Objectifs:

The aim of this seminar is to examine how the classical dramatic genre of tragedy was "Englished" at the level of form as well as of content between the 1580s and the 1620s focusing on the work of William Shakespeare. Starting with the hugely popular "national" revenge tragedy by Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*, we will discuss how Shakespeare took up and interrogated the work of his predecessor in *Hamlet*. We will then consider how Shakespeare's love tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* was in turn taken up and interrogated in *Tis Pity She's a Whore* by John Ford, for whom Shakespeare's play, in 1620s England, seemed already "out of date".

Contenu:

Through close reading and comparison of the four plays as well as of relevant critical essays we will discuss: the place of the theatre in the formation of a sense of English national identity; the ways in which each of the dramas negotiate questions of national identities (English and other) in the form as well as the content of their "translations" of the classical genre of tragedy; how national identities are related in each to class and gender differences; finally, how each drama addresses the themes of death and the forms of mourning and religious ritual which were central not only to the genre of tragedy but to the religious conflicts which were a formative influence on the defining of English national identity.

Forme de l'évaluation:

1 oral presentation of a critical essay (30%); 1 essay of 16-20 pages or 2 essays of 8-10 pages (60%) ; class participation will also be taken into account (10%).

Rattrapage: rewriting of one or two essays

Documentation:

Students are advised to use the Arden, the Oxford or Cambridge edition of the Shakespeare plays. Copies of the other two plays will be on order at the university bookshop. Editions can also be found on the Caroline site or online. The critical material will be on the Caroline site or on the reserved bookshelf in the alvéole.

Pré-requis:

BA in English literature

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar : student presentations and class discussions