

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

Sém. Ang. II/TG : Drolls, Drollerie & Surreptitious Theatre, 1642-1700 (2AN2126)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - dramaturgie et histoire du théâtre	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Emma Depledge

Contenu

In this seminar we will question existing accounts of early modern theatre history and work to expand our understanding of what constituted dramatic entertainment in the seventeenth century. We will begin by surveying key developments in dramatic history between c. 1560 and 1700 and will reflect on the ways in which the introduction of purpose-built acting spaces has impacted the language we used to discuss performances and the ways in which we envision dramatic texts in performance.

Students will explore both purpose-built acting spaces and other locations, such as Bartholomew fair and Mountebank stands, where performances took place. They will also be invited to research and analyse changes to laws regarding performances between the closing of the theatres in 1642, their supposed 'restoration' in 1660 (when, in effect, only two companies were granted licenses to perform in London) and the end of the century.

We will explore dramatic entertainments that took place during the ban on acting of 1642-1659 and those which were 'staged' beyond the walls of the two licensed theatres of Restoration London, 1660-1700. We will consider short plays called drolls as well as puppet shows, tightrope walking, and entertainments involving animals. We will read Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair and contemporary diary entries to gain insight into the ways in which puppet shows and the fair were organised and will study some abbreviated versions of William Shakespeare's plays, and a puppet-version of Christopher Marlowe's Dr Faustus in order to reflect on the relationship between full plays and pieces designed to be performed, often surreptitiously, beyond the theatres. Students will be invited to conduct archival research and to present their findings in class.

In the event of a sanitary crisis, teaching will take place online (via WebEx, as will the in-class presentations and in-class test).

Forme de l'évaluation

Students will deliver an in-class oral report based on their research findings (30%) and will develop this into a research paper to be submitted by Aug 15th 2024 (70%).

Modalités de rattrapage

A new essay, to be submitted by December 20th 2024.

Documentation

Please purchase any copy of Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair and Christopher Marlowe's Dr Faustus. Scans of other texts will be posted to Moodle for students to download and print to bring to class.

Pré-requis

Regular attendance and active participation in in-class discussions. Ideally, you should have completed Lecture course 3 or an equivalent survey course covering early modern literature, 1500-1700. We will, however, recap key aspects of dramatic / theatre history.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminars, a lecture and archival and practice-based research.