University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Theatre Studies, PG_00189666		
Field of study	Management of Artistic Institutions		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to practical vocational preparation
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English English 90%; Polish 10%
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	practical	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Research into the Performing Arts -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Agnieszka Żukowska	
	Teachers		

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives	The course prepares students to use academic theatre studies tools in their own analysis of theatrical performances. It emphasizes the specificity of theatre studies in relation to related academic disciplines. While artistic and aesthetic values that define the nature of theatre as an art form are central, social and cultural issues are treated as auxiliary. The course develops the ability to independently view and assess specific performances and phenomena, while also reinforcing the importance of applying academic paradigms in analysis and interpretation.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[ZIAL3_U02] They are able to select appropriate sources and conduct the selection, evaluation, critical analysis, and synthesis of information drawn from these sources in the fields of arts studies, management and quality studies, and literary studies.	Is able to make the right selection of sources and to select, evaluate, critically assess and carry out analysis and synthesis of information drawn from these sources in order to solve problems within the field of theatre studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[ZIAL3_K01] They are prepared for a critical assessment of their knowledge and skills in the fields of art studies and the management of artistic institutions.	Is prepared for a critical assessment of their knowledge in the field of theatre studies and skills necessary for the analysis and interpretation of a theatre performance.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ZIAL3_W01] They possess an advanced level of general knowledge in fields of arts studies, management and quality studies, literary studies, as well as auxiliary and related studies.	Has an advanced basic general knowledge in the field of theatre studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ZIAL3_U03] They are capable of communicating effectively using specialized terminology in arts studies, management and quality studies, literary studies, as well as auxiliary and related studies.	Can communicate using specialist terminology in the field of theatre studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[ZIAL3_U04] They are capable of actively participating in debates regarding art, literature, and arts management, presenting, evaluating, and discussing various viewpoints.	Is able to take part in a debate on theatre: present and evaluate various positions and discuss them.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[ZIAL3_W02] They have an advanced understanding of fundamental theories, methodologies, and terminology in fields of arts studies, management and quality studies, literary studies, as well as auxiliary and related studies.	Has an advanced knowledge of basic theories and methodologies and terminology in the field of theatre studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[ZIAL3_W03] They possess advanced detailed knowledge of specific topics within arts studies, management and quality studies, literary studies, as well as auxiliary and related studies, with a focus on practical applications in managerial and/or artistic activity.	Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues in the field of theatre studies, focused on practical applications in managerial activity.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ZIAL3_K06] They are prepared to engage in artistic and cultural life as recipients and managers, interacting with its diverse forms. They recognize the importance of the cultural heritage of the region, country, and Europe, and acknowledge their own responsibility in preserving them.	Is prepared to engage in artistic and cultural life, especially in the realm of theatre; is aware of the importance of the cultural heritage of the region, the country and Europe, especially theatrical heritage, and of his/her responsibility for its preservation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents	• Selected topics in the history of world theatre • Archives in theatre research • The actor as a sign in theatre (casting choices, acting styles) • The role of the spectator in theatre (emotions, liveness, ritual) • Dramaturgy (creative process, movements, sources of inspiration, drama vs. literature) • Adaptation (creative process, overview of adaptation types, marketing strategies related to theatrical adaptations) • The evolution of theatre stages throughout history • The significance of scenography, props, costumes, and makeup, and methods of their analysis • Musicality in theatre (music, rhythm, voice, sound design) • Choreography analysis • The role of the director throughout history and in contemporary theatre • Ecology of theatre production and theatre institutions • Ableism (casting practices, themes of performances, accessibility) • Multiculturalism in theatre (Eastern influences on European directors, cultural borrowings, intercultural exchange) • Feminism in theatre (the signifying female body, thematic content of performances) • Queer themes in theatre (representation, subject matter, social engagement of institutions) • Theatre beyond the theatre (off-theatre, independent theatre groups)
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Attendance at all classes is mandatory unless the student has obtained the Dean’s approval to follow an individual study plan.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
written end-of-term test	51.0%	40.0%
multimedia presentation with discussion (on a selected topic)	51.0%	30.0%
active participation in classes	51.0%	30.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

- Ratajczakowa D., *W kryształe i płomieniu*, Wrocław 2011.
- Ubersfeld A., *Czytanie Teatru I*, Warszawa 2002.
- Allain P., Harvie J., *The Routledge Companion to Theatre and Performance*, Routledge 2014.
- Fischer-Lichte E., *The Semiotics of Theater*, translated by Jeremy Gaines and Doris L. Jones, Bloomington and Indianapolis 1992.

Theatrical performances available on platforms such as Digital Theatre+, Ninateka, TVP VOD, and the Encyclopedia of Polish Theatre.

	Supplementary literature	• Fischer-Lichte E., *Estetyka performatywności*, Księgarnia Akademicka 2008. • Hutcheon L., *A Theory of Adaptation*, Routledge 2013. • Limon J., *Brzmienia czasu*, słowo/obraz terytoria 2011 • Pavis P., *Słownik terminów teatralnych*, Ossolineum 2002. • Pickering K., *Key Concepts in Theatre and Performance*, Palgrave Macmillan 2010. • Martincich D., Rumsey P. (red.), *Dance in Musical Theatre. A History of the Body in Movement*, Methuen Drama 2024. • Woźniak M., Zgierska R., *Almanach Between.Pomiędzy 2024*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego 2025. The lecturer presents the current reading list at the first meeting.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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