English Language Theater (Bachelor Year 3 / Fall)

Bachelor in English and American Language, Literature and History / Faculty of Liberal Arts

Introduction

Othello by William Shakespeare
The Elizabethan and Jacobean periods are often hailed as the Golden Age of English literature, and students will be offered an opportunity to focus on a particular challenging play of that time. We will study the historical context and the philosophy of Shakespearean times in order to reach a better understanding of Othello, although its modernity challenges most of our preconceived ideas about the period. This is a violent and sensational play about manipulation, the ruthless annihilation of an unsuspecting victim and the domination of men over women. Racial issues, in particular fear of miscegenation, are also alluded to in the play, even though they may not be essential to understand the characters' motivations. Iago as the archetypal villain remains opaque and ambiguous, representing lust for sheer evil with not much to gain in return. The play alternates violent and poetic moments, as love is destroyed and the downfall of a great man, Othello, reaches its climax.

Objectives

To introduce the students to Shakespearean tragedy, but also to the different ways of staging a play. Excerpts from different adaptations will be shown to the students for comparison.

Admission

Prerequisite

Prerequisites training

It is absolutely required that students should have a reasonably good knowledge of the play before the first lesson.

Program

Methods of Instruction

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

Each lesson will focus on a specific excerpt from the play. The students will be given questions about the excerpt one week in advance and will be expected to have prepared their answers for the lesson.

Assessment and Final Grade

Two written tests: one midterm, one final exam. Both consist in a few questions regarding a short excerpt from the play.

Course Requirements

Continuous Assessment