



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
MADRID

THR 1010 M01: Introduction to the Performing Arts
Spring 2018

Class Days and Time: MW, 16:00-17:15

Classroom: SIH, Room B

Prerequisite(s): none

Credits: 3

Instructor: Alberto Bosco

Instructor's Email: alberto.bosco@slu.edu

Instructor's Campus Phone: 91 554 58 58

Office: SIH, first floor left

Office Hours: W, 17:30-18:30, or by appointment

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce the students to the world of performing arts in Western culture, including dance, opera, theatre and symphonic music. The course will provide students a variety of tools for the analysis of contemporary performances, and will increase their knowledge of these performances' historical contexts. The course is also meant to familiarize the students with the canon of works that makes up the tradition in which authors, as well as performers, operate. Upon completion of the course, students will have developed the necessary tools to evaluate opera, drama, dance and musical theatre, will demonstrate this through critical writing, and will have sharpened their aesthetic and critical sensitivities in ways which will benefit their own performances as musicians, dancers, and actors. Lectures, audio/video recordings and meetings with artists will contribute to expand the student's knowledge of artistic styles and genres. Students will have the opportunity to attend operas, concerts, plays, ballets, musicals and flamenco shows produced in Madrid's most renowned venues.

The course outline is mainly historical, consisting in synthetic lectures that will give the students the necessary critical vocabulary and conceptual background to approach the sample works. These works, chosen from the main repertoire of each discipline, will constitute the core of the course. The students will be provided the source material (plays, librettos, recordings of shows) for individual study. The professor will analyze the selected works in class with the aid of multimedia resources (keyboard, videos) and will explain to the students the aesthetic background of the author and genre of the work. By comparing different forms of performing arts, they will grasp in a more direct and intuitive way what differentiates these forms of expression, their limits and strengths. The topics and analyzed works will be covered in class through lectures and discussions and outside of class through readings and individual research.

The works studied in class will be representative of the so-called Modern Era, three centuries (1600-1900) that are sustained by a coherent ideological framework and still provide the canonic repertoire of Opera, Concert Music, Drama and Ballet. At the end of the course students will have to write a review of a work in live performance or a presentation of one of the works studied in class, describing their individual reactions and justifying them using the ideas expounded in class. This activity is meant to encourage students to apply the concepts discussed in class to independently studied works, and to take advantage of the wealth of performance venues Madrid has to offer. The work will be chosen by each student according to his or her major of interest within the four sections: Opera, Concert Music, Drama and Ballet. The professor will select for the outings only venues that have established a special partnership with the University and/or offer free or discounted tickets (max. 20 €) for students. A precise calendar of live performances and prices will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

Course outline:

PROLOGUE

1. The theatre in ancient Greece. The Dionysian rites. The mask, the chorus, the hero. Music and dance in Greek tragedy.
2. Musicians, actors, dancers in the Middle Ages. Plain chant and sacred polyphony. Liturgical dramas and mystery plays. Troubadours and courtly entertainments. Nomadic actors and pageant wagons.

CORE CLASSES (1600-1900)

3. Introduction to the Modern Era. The rediscovery and the cult of Classical antiquity. The birth of the modern state and the European nations. The new faith in reason and the beginning of modern physics. Subjectivism and Idealism.
4. The resurgence of dramatic theatre in the XVII Century. Professional and stable companies in Spain, England and France. **Sample work: Tartuffe by Molière.**
5. The harmonic revolution in music and its consequences: the invention of Opera and the emancipation of purely instrumental music («absolute music»).
6. Symphonic music in the XVIII Century. From the late-baroque forms to the Classical Symphony. **Sample works: Mozart's «Jupiter» Symphony, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.**
7. Opera, the most influential form of art of the Romantic Century. Brief survey on early forms and the subsequent rigid distinction in: «opera seria» and «opera buffa». The merging of the two in the early XIX Century. **Sample work: La Traviata by Verdi.**
8. Ballet comes of age, or why the Romantic Parisian Ballet of the 1840's became the «Classical Ballet». Its crowning apogee in the Russian Imperial style of the late XIX Century. **Sample work: The Nutcracker by Chaikovsky.**

EPILOGUE

9. The collapse of the Modern framework of ideals in the XX Century. The acknowledgement of the limits of reason and progress. Mass society and industrial economy. The alienation of the individual and the degeneration of traditional values.
10. The artistic avant-gardes as a reaction to this historical change of perspectives. Brief survey of different XX Century 'isms and their results in the performing arts: Naturalism, Impressionism, Symbolism, Primitivism, Expressionism, Neoclassicism, Surrealism. Irony, evasion and political engagement in German Cabaret and American Musical Theatre.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the pivotal points in the evolution of the performing arts.
- Explain the effect of historical, political and cultural contexts on the performing arts.
- Identify stylistic genres and characteristics of the performing arts.
- Analyze opera, concert dance, theatre, and musical theatre works.
- Recognize the technical and practical aspects that lie behind a stage production.
- Identify and describe the issues involved in the act of staging a work of art.
- Understand the role of music in sustaining the development of a performed scenario .
- Develop a critical appreciation of all types of performing arts in order to construct aesthetic judgments of the performances attended.
- Acquire tools for the analysis of artistic phenomena (theatre, dance, music and opera) with a specific emphasis on interdisciplinarity.
- Appreciate the importance of social interaction in live performances.

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs is kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

Required Texts and Materials:

Selected performances for the written review

(will vary according to the schedule of theatres and concert societies in Madrid).

Concert at Auditorio Nacional // www.auditorionacional.es

Opera at Teatro Real // www.teatro-real.com

Play at Spanish-speaking theatre (students will prepare for the show by reading the play in English first)

Zarzuela at Teatro de la Zarzuela // teatrodelaZarzuela.mcu.es

Ballet at Teatros del Canal

Suggested reading materials

Oscar Brockett, *History of the Theatre*, Pearson 2006

Richard Taruskin, *The Oxford History of Western Music* (voll. 2-4), OUP 2010.

Ana Abad Carlés, *Historia del ballet y de la danza moderna*, Alianza, Madrid 2012.

Course Requirements and Grading Rationale/System:

- Midterm Tests (50%): written exams that will focus on the works treated in class and the history and specificities of the different disciplines (Drama, Symphonic Music, Opera, Ballet).
- Final Paper (20%): a written presentation of one of the works treated in the core classes, or a written review of a live performance attended (to be chosen from the list of suggested venues given by the teacher).
- Participation (30%): paying attention in class, attendance at concerts, and participation in class discussions will be weighed. Students will be expected to express personal opinions and reactions to the works studied in class, concerts attended and to the listening and reading assignments.

E-mail: Campus and course announcements will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their “@slu.edu” e-mail regularly.

University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office [website](#). Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals. The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

University Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Students with Special Needs: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/student-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

(IF APPLICABLE): Mandatory Trips/Activities: Students enrolled in this class must participate and make payment for all mandatory trips/activities. The prices posted on the web are approximate; the final price will be based on the number of students enrolled on the last day of the Add/Drop period. All students, including those who withdraw from the class after this date, are required to pay these fees, which are non-refundable, unless the trip is cancelled due to low enrollment. Please review SLU-Madrid's trip policies, available on-line.

Spring 2018 Course Schedule:

JANUARY	
Wednesday 10	First Day of Classes
Thursday 11	
Friday 12	
Monday 15	
Tuesday 16	
Wednesday 17	
Thursday 18	
Friday 19	
Sunday 21	Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade W and/or Add a Class; Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options
Monday 22	
Tuesday 23	
Wednesday 24	
Thursday 25	
Friday 26	No Classes Application Deadline for Spring Semester Degree Candidates
Monday 29	
Tuesday 30	
Wednesday 31	
FEBRUARY	
Thursday 1	
Friday 2	
Monday 5	
Tuesday 6	
Wednesday 7	
Thursday 8	
Friday 9	
Monday 12	
Tuesday 13	
Wednesday 14	Ash Wednesday Registration for Summer 2018 Begins
Thursday 15	
Friday 16	
Monday 19	
Tuesday 20	
Wednesday 21	
Thursday 22	
Friday 23	No Classes (Winter Break)
Monday 26	
Tuesday 27	Professors' Deadline to Submit Midterm Grades
Wednesday 28	
MARCH	
Thursday 1	
Friday 2	
Monday 5	
Tuesday 6	
Wednesday 7	
Thursday 8	
Friday 9	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W
Monday 12	
Tuesday 13	

Wednesday 14	
Thursday 15	Last Day to Submit Transfer Application for Fall Semester
Friday 16	
Monday 19	
Tuesday 20	
Wednesday 21	
Thursday 22	
Friday 23	
Monday 26	<i>Semana Santa</i> Holiday (Campus Closed)
Tuesday 27	
Wednesday 28	
Thursday 29	<i>Jueves Santo</i> (Campus Closed)
Friday 30	<i>Viernes Santo</i> (Campus Closed)
APRIL	
Monday 2	
Tuesday 3	
Wednesday 4	Registration for Fall 2018 Semester Begins
Thursday 5	
Friday 6	
Monday 9	
Tuesday 10	
Wednesday 11	
Thursday 12	
Friday 13	
Monday 16	
Tuesday 17	
Wednesday 18	
Thursday 19	
Friday 20	
Monday 23	
Tuesday 24	
Wednesday 25	
Thursday 26	
Friday 27	
Monday 30	
MAY	
Tuesday 1	<i>Día del Trabajador</i> (Campus Closed)
Wednesday 2	<i>Día de la Comunidad</i> (Campus Closed)
Thursday 3	Spring 2018 Final Day of Classes
Friday 4	Spring 2018 Final Exams
Monday 7	
Tuesday 8	
Wednesday 9	
Thursday 10	
Friday 11	University Housing Move-out Date
Saturday 12	Commencement
Sunday 13	Professors' deadline to submit spring 2018 final grades

Final Exam Schedules Spring 2018

	4 May (Fr)	7 May (Mn)	8 May (Tu)	9 May (Wd)	10 May (Th)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00 & 12:30	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 18:30 & 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---