THET 489G: Globalization and Theatre

Course Description

This course surveys the various ways in which contemporary theatre has been created and circulated in a global context. With increasing globalization, new possibilities of theatre and performance have emerged, bringing together previously unconnected styles and artists. New forms of theatre have been used for political activism, social development, and cultural education. Globalization has also brought about vast commercialization of corporate-sponsored shows that have reached audiences worldwide. Topics of the course include: street performances, popular theatres, commercial theatres, tourism and theatre, theatre festivals, political theatre, community theatres, ethnic theatre, and intercultural theatre. The course will introduce representative works from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, but emphasis will be given to Asian and Asian diasporic works. Readings include play scripts and critical essays.

Required Texts


Assignments and Evaluations

Two Take-Home Exams: Exam 1 and Exam 2 consist of essay questions. Students must work independently on the exam and submit the answers in typed, double-space format.

Presentation: Students will be assigned one topic from the scheduled reading list. For each report, prepare a handout and a short (i.e., 20-minute) oral presentation to the class on the date indicated.

Term Paper: All students will write a term paper on a topic related to globalization and theatre. The length should be around eight pages. The paper topic must be approved by the professor by the 7th week of the semester.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are required.

Exam 1: 20%  
Exam 2: 20%  
Presentation: 20%  
Term Paper: 30%  
Attendance and Participation: 10%