

**Module Title:** Avant-Garde Theatre in Europe

**Module Code:** HSP6007

**Credit Value:** 15

**Level:** 6

**Pre-requisite modules:**

### **Content Description**

Why should characters behave illogically on stage or not exist at all? How can image rival plot? And what is the point of shocking audiences? This module introduces some fundamental styles and plays from European avant-garde theatre and sets them within an artistic and socio-political context. Futurism, Dada, Expressionism and the Theatre of the Absurd are included. Special attention is paid to Spanish and Catalan drama. We will at all times try to see texts as excuses for performance and use other aspects of culture to understand the challenges of this new drama.

### **Module Aims**

By the end of the module, students should understand several major currents in avant-garde drama in Europe and have a knowledge of specific avant-garde plays, as well as a knowledge of specific concepts related to avant-garde drama. They should be able to engage in close critical readings and analysis of plays on the page and for performance, in addition to evaluating arguments within class discussion and in written work. Students should be able to write clearly and concisely about fundamental issues concerning avant-garde drama and to construct cogent written arguments through the use of textual and artistic evidence. They should be able to demonstrate an ability to analyze texts within their aesthetic and performative context.