

Political Theater and Modernism: Bertolt Brecht, Peter Weiss, Heiner Müller

We will consider plays by these dramatists according to general topics as listed below. Our approach will be comparative: How do these playwrights, all three of them exponents of epic theater, contend with similar political topics at different times, under different circumstances, and using different poetic discourses?

From Capitalism to Political/Sexual Revolution

Brecht, Die Dreigroschenoper; Weiss, Marat/Sade;

Müller, Die Hamletmaschine

Colonialism

Brecht, Mann ist Mann; Weiss, Gesang vom lusitanischen Popanz;

Müller, Der Auftrag

National Socialism

Brecht, Furcht und Elend des 3. Reichs; Weiss, Die Ermittlung;

Müller, Germania Tod in Berlin

Requirements: Final research paper of at least 15 pp.; two reports as to the research paper topic; final or near-final draft of the research paper distributed for class discussion in our last session.