

Paper Fr14: A Special Topic in French Studies (A): Theatre: Theory and Practice, 1600-2000

Primary texts

The following texts will be discussed in the three strands of the paper:

1. History and myth:

Corneille, *Le Cid*; Racine, *Bérénice*, *Phèdre*; Sartre: *Les Mouches*; Musset: *Lorenzaccio*; Voltaire, *Œdipe*

2. Laughter (and the absurd):

Desmarets de Saint-Sorlin, *Les Visionnaires*, Molière, *l'École des femmes* and *La Critique de l'École des femmes*, Marivaux, *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard*; Ionesco: *Rhinocéros*; Beckett, *En attendant Godot*, *Oh les beaux jours!*

3. Authority and Revolution:

Corneille, *Cinna*; Beaumarchais, *Le Mariage de Figaro*; Chénier, *Charles IX*; Ionesco, *Le Roi se meurt*; Hugo, *Ruy Blas*; Sartre, *Huis clos*; Genet, *Les Bonnes*, *Le Balcon*

Secondary reading

17th century:

H.T. Barnwell, *The Tragic Drama of Corneille and Racine* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982)

W.Burgwinkle, N. Hammond, E. Wilson, eds, *The Cambridge History of French Literature* (Cambridge: CUP, 2011), chapters on Tragedy and Comedy by J. Lyons, M. Hawcroft and L. Norman

J.-M. Civardi, *La Querelle du Cid (1637-1638)* (Paris : Honoré Champion, 2004)

L. Norman, *The Public Mirror* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 1999)

18th century:

W. Howarth, *Beaumarchais and the Theatre* (London: Routledge, 1995)

Y. Moraud, *La Conquête de la liberté de Scapin à Figaro: Valets, servantes et soubrettes de Molière à Beaumarchais* (Paris: 1981)

M. de Rougemont, *La Vie théâtrale en France au XVIII^e siècle* (Paris: Champion, 1988)

Chapters of Cambridge History by R. Goulbourne and J. Harris

19th century:

A. Ubersfeld, *Le Drame romantique* (Paris: Belin, 1999)

Chapter by M. Hannoosh in Cambridge History.

20th century:

P. Brook, *The Empty Space* (London: Penguin, 1990)

D. Bradby, *Modern French Drama (1940-1990)* (Cambridge: CUP, second edition 1991)

W. Burgwinkle, N. Hammond, E. Wilson, eds, *The Cambridge History of French Literature* (Cambridge: CUP, 2011), chapter on drama by D. Bradby

M. Esslin, *The Theatre of the Absurd* (London: Penguin, 1983 3rd edition)

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