

Advanced English: Theater in English

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Academic year 2024-2025 - **Language Department** - Fall semester.

This course is meant for students of the advanced C1 and C2 levels. Theme-based language classes aim at developing written and oral skills through the study of a specific topic.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week course that introduces students to the world of English-language theater.

The three main objectives of this course are:

- Introducing students to basic acting tools that help organize and strengthen any oral presentation.
- Guiding students through the process of learning a part and performing a scene with a partner.
- Expanding students' knowledge and appreciation of theater.

Course Description

In the first weeks of the class, students will be introduced to vocal and physical preparation for stage work and begin to understand how an actor analyzes and breaks down a text into objectives and actions. Using exercises and improvisations, students will explore these tools individually, in pairs, and in groups.

We will explore *The Heidi Chronicles*, a contemporary play by **American playwright Wendy Wasserstein**. Students will be split up into pairs to work on scenes. We will approach the text as though we were going to mount the entire play, looking at the play's historical and social context by reading articles, researching historic context, and getting to know the playwright. Students will work on developing their characters and staging their scene, while exploring the text to better understand their characters' desires and what they are willing to do to attain their goals. Work will also include a presentation, in pairs, on a theme from the play. In the last week, students will perform their scenes in **a final showing in class for an invited audience**.

Organization

Activities will cover the four language skills:

- Speaking: scene work, presentations on the play's themes.
- Writing: text analysis, character autobiography.
- Listening: videos related to the play's themes, recordings of popular music of the era.
- Reading: preparation and research will include reading the play as well as articles pertaining to the social/historical context.