The course will focus on three plays from the late 19th and early 20th centuries:

- **Christa Winsloe's Girls in Uniform** *(Mädchen in Uniform)* (originating in the 1930s) focuses on the story of a young girl in a boarding school who performs (in a play within the play) as a number of knight figures - Nérestan (from Voltaire's *Zaïre*), Don Carlos (from Schiller's *Tristan*), and Romeo (from Shakespeare).

- **Elsa Bernstein's Twilight** *(Dämmerung)* (originating in the 1890s) makes reference to Schiller's *Don Carlos* and Wagner's *Tristan* - as well as Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy*.

- **Bertolt Brecht's Saint Joan of the Stockyards** *(Die heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe)* (originating in 1932) transposes the Saint Joan legend to the Chicago of the 1920s, referring to both Schiller's and G.B. Shaw's versions of the Saint Joan legend.

Students will learn about the theory of tragedy (and comedy) from Aristotle through French classicism and German bourgeois theatre, up to Brecht's concept of epic theatre and modern "director's theatre" (or "Regietheater") in Germany. We will read the material, watch and analyse film adaptations and stage recordings, and connect our analysis with considerations of performance studies as a means to reflect on identity.