



**Instructor:** Lawrence Switzky

~ lawrence.switzky@utoronto.ca

**Course Number:** ENG341H5S

**Course Title:** Drama Since World War II

**Course Description:** This course surveys British, American, and Anglophone drama in a dizzyingly changing world, from 1945 to 2000, the beginning of the Cold War through the fall of the Berlin Wall and its aftermath. The movements and topics we will consider include: the Theater of the Absurd and its philosophical foundations; the Angry Young Men; comedies of menace and miscommunication; memory plays; the uses and abuses of violence in contemporary drama; and dramatic literature after performance art and performance studies. Readings will be selected from plays by Samuel Beckett, John Osborne, Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, Harold Pinter, Athol Fugard, Adrienne Kennedy, Tom Stoppard, Sam Shepard, Tony Kushner, Caryl Churchill, Sarah Kane and Suzan-Lori Parks.

**First Authors to be Studied:** Beckett, *Endgame*, "Play," "Act Without Words"; Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*; Williams, *The Night of the Iguana*

**Method of Instruction:** Lectures; discussions; occasional performances, readings, and/or screenings of texts (as determined by class interest)

**Method of Evaluation:** 2 essays, 20% and 35%, quizzes 20%, attendance and participation 10%, creative/interpretive project 15%