



Instructor: A. Jordão

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Course Number: DRE/ENG122H5S

Course Title: Modern and Contemporary
Theatre and Drama

Course description: This introductory course surveys plays and performance techniques from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will study a number of theatrical forms and movements, including Realism, Modern Comedy and Tragedy, Feminist and Post-Colonial Theatre. Playwrights include: Anton Chekhov, Bertolt Brecht, Caryl Churchill, Judith Thompson and Wole Soyinka. We will consider the conditions in which these plays were originally performed and received, as well as their social and political impact. Special emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking and close-reading skills. Students will also participate in staged readings of excerpts from the plays.

Required Reading: Selections from *The Norton Anthology of Drama Vol. II: The Nineteenth Century to the Present* (2009); additional plays and/or readings will be distributed as handouts or electronically.

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First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*.

Method of Instruction: For each play we will have lectures, pair or small group exercises, and class discussion. We will also do staged readings of scenes from the plays and presentations on performance, with the aim of honing close reading skills and considering staging possibilities.

Method of Evaluation: Scene Study/Presentation and Report (500 words) (10%); Close Reading (1000 words) (15%), Mid-term test (10%); Final paper (2000 words) (20%); Participation (attendance, in-class assignments) (10%); Final exam (35%)