



Instructor: A. Rich

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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, Theatre of the Absurd, Feminist and Post-Colonial Theatre. We will study plays by Chekhov, Brecht, Wole Soyinka, and others. 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 have the opportunity to 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 hand-outs or electronically.

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First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Büchner's *Woyzeck*, Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Method of Instruction: Each week we will have two lectures, which will include class activities and discussion. During the third class of the week we will study specific scenes from the plays we are reading, with the aim of honing close reading skills and considering staging possibilities. This will be done through scene readings and group presentations.

Method of Evaluation:

Presentation 10%
Close Reading Assignment (1000 words) 15%
Mid-term test 10%
Final paper (2000 words) 20%
Participation (attendance and in-class activities/discussions) 10%
Final exam 35%