

Instructor: L. Thomson

Course number: ENG473H5F

Course title: Beckett and After – REVISED description

Course Description: Samuel Beckett's influence can be seen in the plays of many twentieth-century playwrights who succeeded him. This course will begin with three plays by Beckett, then move on to three by Harold Pinter, two by David Mamet, and two by Sam Shepard. The plays will be studied both as literary texts and as works written for performance. Particular emphasis will be put on how these playwrights used the basic tools of dialogue and action to dramatize the conflicts inherent in human relationships.

Required Reading: Samuel Beckett: *Endgame* (Grove/Atlantic), *Happy Days* (Grove/Atlantic), *Play* (course pack); Harold Pinter: *The Caretaker* (Faber & Faber), *The Homecoming* (Faber & Faber), *Betrayal* (Faber & Faber); David Mamet: *American Buffalo* (Grove/Atlantic), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Grove/Atlantic); Sam Shepard: *Buried Child* (Vintage), *Fool for Love* (City Lights).

Note: although we will not study *Waiting for Godot*, students should have read the play and be familiar enough with it to discuss it in the first class.

With the exception of *Play* these texts will be available at the UTM Bookstore; they can also be found and ordered online at Amazon.ca or other used book websites such as abebooks.com.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Introductory discussion of *Waiting for Godot*, then in the order listed above.

Method of Instruction: Some lecture but mostly short seminar presentations and informed discussion.

Method of Evaluation: In-class test (20%), Seminar presentation (10%), Short Essay based on seminar presentation (10%), Regular and informed participation (10%), Essay outline (10%), Annotated Bibliography (10%), Final Essay (30%).