

Instructor: Lydia Wilkinson

Course number: DRE/ENG 122 HS

Course title: 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 Melodrama, Naturalism, Expressionism, and the Theatre of the Absurd as well as playwrights including Ibsen, Strindberg, O'Neill, and Brecht. We will consider the conditions in which these plays were originally performed and received, as well as their social and political impact. Students will have the opportunity to assist with or participate in the performance of excerpts from the plays.

Required Reading: Selections from *The Norton Anthology of Drama Vol. II* (2008); additional plays and readings will be posted on Blackboard.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Lewis, *The Bells*; Büchner, *Woyzeck*; Strindberg, *Miss Julie*

Method of Instruction: Each week we will have two informal lectures, with much opportunity for class discussion. During the third class of the week we will stage parts of the plays we are studying. Students will have the opportunity to assist with or participate in scene performances.

Method of Evaluation: Close reading assignment (1000 words) (15%); Midterm test (12%); Essay proposal and final paper (2000 words) (20%); Participation (20%); Final exam (33%)