



Instructor: Martin Revermann

~ m.revermann@utoronto.ca

Course Number: ENG422H5S

Course Title: DRE 420H5S Naturalism
and its Critics

Course description: Naturalism is arguably the most influential Western theatre style of all, with its repercussions being felt throughout the 20th and the incipient 21st century. To the present day, the vast majority of theatre available, certainly theatre with a strong commercial bias, is more or less heavily influenced by naturalism and naturalist staging techniques. This source sets out to explore the naturalist theatre movement of the late 19th century and its influence until today, in part by analysing plays, playwrights, directors and theorists close to this movement (esp. Strindberg, Ibsen, Chekhov, Stanislavski), in part by looking at critics of naturalism (esp. Meyerhold, Brecht and Artaud).

Continued...

Books to be purchased:

-Innes, C. (2000) *A Sourcebook on Naturalist Theatre*, London (Routledge) (available in print and for the Kindle e-reader)
-Strindberg: *Miss Julie* and Other Plays (ed. by M. Robinson) (1998, Oxford World's Classics) (available in print and for the Kindle e-reader)

Method of instruction: Seminar discussion initiated by assigned lead questions.

First three texts to be read: Strindberg *Miss Julie*, Ibsen *Ghosts*, Chekhov *Cherry Orchard*

Evaluation: Participation (20%), Mid-term (15%), Paper (35%), Final Exam (30%).