



**Instructor:** Aida Jordão

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**Course Number:** DRE122H5S (L0101)

**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 Realism, Modern Comedy and Tragedy, Theatre of the Absurd, Feminist and Post-Colonial Theatre. Playwrights include: Chekhov, Brecht, Garcia Lorca, 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 a staged reading 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 Authors to be Studied:** Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*.

**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 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 staged readings and group presentations.

**Method of Evaluation:** Scene Study Group Presentation with Written Report (1000 words) (15%); Mid-term test (15%); Essay proposal and final paper (2000 words) (20%); Participation (attendance and in-class discussions) (15%); Final exam (35%)