

20th CENTURY WORLD DRAMA
(THE 4371) 3 credits Spring 2016
Professor Tom Atkins, TTh 2:00-3:20 PM, AH 112
Office: AL 185, Telephone 297-3810
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Course description and objectives:

Critical examination of works by major dramatists of the 20th century from Chekhov and Synge through Samuel Beckett and Caryl Churchill, with emphasis on original staging, audience reaction and critical interpretations. The social and historical context of the texts will be considered, as well as dramaturgical matters such as story, character, structure, and language.

Students will acquire experience in detailed dramaturgical analysis of selected texts as well as gain an understanding of the cultural and social influences shaping the plays. There will be three examinations during the term.

REQUIRED READING:

Anton Chekhov's
THE CHERRY ORCHARD (1904)

J.M. Synge's
PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD (1907)

Jean Giraudoux's
ONDINE (1938)

Arthur Miller's
ALL MY SONS (1947)

Samuel Beckett's
WAITING FOR GODOT (1952)

Harold Pinter's
THE BIRTHDAY PARTY (1957)

Caryl Churchill's
FAR AWAY (2000)

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance and fulfillment of assignments and classroom reports on time (10%), three examinations (30% each). No extra credit will be offered.

TEXT EDITIONS

Anton Chekhov's FOUR PLAYS
(Penguin edition)

J.M. Synge's
PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
(NHB Books)

Jean Giraudoux's ONDINE
(Samuel French)

Athur Miller's
ALL MY SONS
(Penguin)

Samuel Beckett's
WAITING FOR GODOT
(Grove Press)

Harold Pinter's
THE BIRTHDAY PARTY (Grove Press)

Caryl Churchill's FAR AWAY
(NHB Books)

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

January 6-15 Introduction to the course. Background on Anton Chekhov. Read THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Chekhov assignment due Jan. 13

Chekhov and Constantine Stanislavsky. The founding of the Moscow Art Theatre. The first production of THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Recent productions.

20-29 Background on Synge and Irish theatre. Read **PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD**. Synge assignment due Jan. 27

Synge's legacy on modern Irish drama. Yeats and the founding of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

Feb. 3 *Exam #1.*

Feb. 5-17 Background on Giraudoux. Read **ONDINE**. Giraudoux assignment due Feb. 10. Giraudoux and the French theatre between the world wars.

19-26 Background on Arthur Miller. Read **ALL MY SONS**. Miller and Henrik Ibsen. Miller assignment.

March 2-6 **SPRING BREAK**

Mar. 10 *Exam #2.*

12-24 Samuel Beckett's life and work. Read **WAITING FOR GODOT**. Beckett assignment due March 17.

Productions of **GODOT** in Paris, London and New York City.

26-April 2 Background on Harold Pinter. Read **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY**. Pinter assignment due April 31. Minimalist dialogue and subtext.

Pinter and the Theatre of the Absurd. Pinter's legacy.

7-14 Background of Caryl Churchill. Read **FAR AWAY**. Churchill assignment due Apr 9. Dystopian themes in Churchill's play.

16 Review for examination.

April 28 *Final Examination*

1. Students with Disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodation to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010) -- and follow all OSD procedures.

2. Attendance Policy of the Department of Theatre & Dance: Three absences will lower your final grade by one letter. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter. Five absences will result in automatic failure. Three tardies equals one absence. If you arrive to class after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to check in at the end of class to make sure your attendance is recorded. See University policies in the *FAU Student Handbook*: www.fau.edu/student/handbook

3. University Policy on Absences and Incompletes: Students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, but proof of involvement must be provided. Reasonable accommodation will be made for student absences due to religious observance(s). Also, note that grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved only for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. Incompletes should be pre-arranged with the instructor before the end of the term.

4. The FAU Code of Academic Integrity: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.