

Course Number and Title: English 7441/8441 (Studies in European Drama and Literature):
Modern European Drama

Instructor: Professor Gene A. Plunka
405 Patterson Hall
678-4507
gaplunka@memphis.edu

Texts: Samuel Beckett, Endgame (Grove-Atlantic) ISBN: 0-8021-5024-1
Bertolt Brecht, Mother Courage and Her Children (Grove-Atlantic) ISBN: 0-8021-3082-8
Anton Chekhov, Anton Chekhov: The Major Plays (NAL) ISBN: 978-0451530370
Federico García-Lorca, Three Tragedies (New Directions) ISBN: 0-8112-0092-2
Jean Genet, The Balcony (Grove-Atlantic) ISBN: 0-8021-5034-9
Henrik Ibsen, Four Major Plays (Oxford UP) ISBN: 978-019953619-1
Eugène Ionesco, The Bald Soprano and Other Plays (Grove-Atlantic) ISBN: 0-8021-3079-8
Luigi Pirandello, Henry IV (Players Press) ISBN: 0-88734-839-4
Jean-Paul Sartre, No Exit and Three Other Plays (Vintage) ISBN: 0-679-72516-4
August Strindberg, Ghost Sonata (Harlan Davidson) ISBN: 0-88295-112-2
August Strindberg, Miss Julie (Dover) ISBN: 0-486-27281-8
Peter Weiss, Marat/Sade (Waveland Press) ISBN: 1-57766-231-8

Aims and Organization: This course traces modern European drama from Ibsen to the present. We will focus on important trends in modern drama, including realism/naturalism, symbolism, impressionism, surrealism/dadaism, expressionism, epic theater, existential drama, Theater of Cruelty, and absurdist drama. The playwrights studied are from Norway, Sweden, Russia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. These playwrights include (in chronological order) Henrik Ibsen, August Strindberg, Maurice Maeterlinck, Anton Chekhov, Georg Kaiser, Tristan Tzara, Antonin Artaud, Jean Cocteau, Luigi Pirandello, Federico García-Lorca, Bertolt Brecht, Jean-Paul Sartre, Eugène Ionesco, Samuel Beckett, Jean Genet, and Peter Weiss.

Assignments and Written Work: Assignments include an oral report, an eight- to ten-page research paper, a take-home midterm writing assignment, and a final examination.

1:00-2:25 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday

Room TBA

Spring 2017