



Department of English Studies

General information		
Name of the course	Twentieth-Century Anglophone Drama	
Course instructor	Dr. Aidan O'Malley, Assistant Professor	
Study programme	Undergraduate study programme in English Language and Literature	
Status of the course	Elective	
Academic year	2022-2023 (summer semester)	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	2
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
1.1. Course objectives
<p>This course will introduce students to a selection of some of the most important Irish, British, African and US dramas and dramatists of the twentieth century. Students will gain an appreciation of the relationships between these literary texts and the most important political and social events of the twentieth century. Themes to be discussed will include: the World Wars, gender, creation of national and other identities. Furthermore, students will also be introduced to some fundamental approaches to dramatic theory, such as those proposed by Stanislavski and Artaud.</p> <p>The influence of Ibsen and Strindberg was felt throughout 20th century drama and so the course begins by examining the innovations that they brought to theatre. Society and gender are at the heart of Ibsen and Strindberg's drama, and we will explore how Shaw translated these concerns into his work. Attention then turns west to the US, where a set of four diverse but key texts will be examined discretely (O'Neill, Williams, Miller, Albee) and in terms of their representation of US society. We then examine how drama of 'The Angry Young Men' (Osborne) and 'kitchen-sink' drama (Delaney) brought new, working-class, subjects on to the London stage in the 1950s and '60s. We will then consider two African dramas: Soyinka's examination of the clash of tradition and colonialism in Nigeria, and the multimedia piece by Jane Taylor, William Kentridge and the Handspring Puppet Company that critiques the work of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The course concludes with Ravenhill: an example of the 'in-yer-face' drama that largely set the agenda for British drama at the end of the 20th century.</p>
1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course
Excellent level of written and spoken English.
1.3. Expected course learning outcomes
At the conclusion of the course, students will have been introduced to major twentieth-century British, Irish, US and African dramas and have acquired an understanding of the aesthetic, social and political contexts informing these works.
1.4. Course content
1. Henrik Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i>

2. August Strindberg, *Miss Julie*
3. George Bernard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*
4. Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*
5. Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
6. Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
7. Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*
8. John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
9. Shelagh Delaney, *A Taste of Honey*
10. Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*
11. Jane Taylor, with William Kentridge and the Handspring Puppet Company, *Ubu and the Truth Commission*
12. Mark Ravenhill, *Shopping and Fucking*

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops
- ✓ Individual assignments