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ENG 5006-001: Recent British Drama

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5006-001

English 5006: Recent British Drama

Instructor: Dr. David Radavich
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Required Texts:

Churchill, *Plays One*
Gray, *Quartermaine's Terms*
Hare, *Amy's View*
Pinter, *The Caretaker and The Dumb Waiter*
Pinter, *Complete Works IV*
Shaffer, *Amadeus*
Shaffer, *Equus*
Stoppard, *Arcadia*
Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
Storey, *Home*

PURPOSE. This course will examine British drama written since the “Angry Young Men” phase of the 1950s, which featured such dramatists as John Osborne, John Whiting, John Arden, and Arnold Wesker, among others. We will examine the period of experimentation that followed, charting British theatrical incorporations of absurdist, agitprop, minimalist, postmodernist, and other styles and traditions. Given the difficulty of finding dramatic texts from recent productions of other than “canonical playwrights” like Pinter and Stoppard, you will be encouraged to explore new developments in plays beyond the class. The last third of the 20th century was especially rich in theatrical development and dramatic exploration; we will examine the ways British drama embodied, reflected, or guided social discussion of the period.

ASSIGNMENTS. You will be required to write one shorter paper of approximately 4-6 pages and one longer, documented paper of some 12-15 pages. During the early part of the semester, you will be asked to introduce discussion for one session; later, you will give a short oral presentation (ca. 10-15 minutes) summarizing your documented paper for the class. There will be a midterm and a final exam.

GRADING. Evaluation of your work will be demanding and fair and will include an assessment of your class preparedness and participation. The first paper will make up 10%, the prospectus 5%, and the documented paper 20% of the course grade. The midterm exam will count 15% and the final exam 25%. Active participation in discussion will constitute the remaining 25% of the overall grade.

LATE WORK. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one-third grade PER CALENDAR DAY late. Missed in-class work cannot be made up; that is the reward for coming to class regularly.

PARTICIPATION. The success of this class depends on your active and constructive participation. As graduate students, you are adults and professionals, and therefore a major portion of your grade will reflect your contributions to thoughtful, provocative class discussions.

CONFERENCES. I encourage you to drop by and confer with me at any mutually convenient time regarding assignments, problems, or ideas for papers. Check with me *before* you get mired in that essay.

English 5006 Assignments

Jan. 13 - Introduction. Background review of early twentieth-century British drama.
Viewing of Pinter's *The Collection*.

Jan. 20 - Contemporary dramatic theory; Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter*.

Jan. 27 - Pinter, *Betrayal*.

Oral Report: _____.

Feb. 3 - Shaffer, *Equus*.

Oral Report: _____.

Feb. 10 - Shaffer, *Amadeus*.

Oral Report: _____.

Feb. 17 - Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. PAPER #1 DUE.

Oral Report: _____.

Feb. 24 - Stoppard, *Arcadia*.

Oral Report: _____.

Mar. 2 - MIDTERM EXAM.

Oral Report: _____.

Mar. 9 - Churchill, *Vinegar Tom*.

Mar. 16 - No class; Spring Break

Mar. 23 - Churchill, *Cloud Nine*.

Oral Report: _____.

Mar. 30 - Simon Gray, *Quartermaine's Terms*; PAPER #2 PROSPECTUS DUE.

Oral Report: _____.

Apr. 6 - David Storey, *Home*.

Oral Report: _____.

Apr. 13 - David Hare, *Amy's View*.

Oral Report: _____.

Apr. 20 - Oral Presentations.

Apr. 27 - Oral Presentations; FINAL PAPER DUE.

FINAL EXAM