

Theater History III: Shaw to Kushner
Spring 2008-09

Instructor: **Dr. D. Ohlandt**

TTh 9:30am - 10:50am
Buchanan 200

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office hours: T 1:30-3pm

W 10:30-11:30am

and by appointment

schedule of readings, assignments, and presentations

UNIT #1: MODERN DRAMA – REALISM & NATURALISM

- T 1/13 introduction, review, syllabus
- Th 1/15 Susan Glaspell - *Trifles* (WA)
Constantin Stanislavski "Direction and Acting" (WA)
- T 1/20 Bernard Shaw - *Major Barbara* (Acts I & II) (WA)
- Th 1/22 continue *Major Barbara* (Act III)
Emile Zola, from *Naturalism in the Theater* (WA)

UNIT #2: MODERNIST DRAMA – THE THEATRICAL AVANT-GARDE

- T 1/27 Julie Dashwood excerpt "The Italian Futurist Theatre" (on Moodle)
Umberto Boccioni - *Genius and Culture* (on Moodle)
Francesco Cangiullo - *Detonation* (on Moodle)
Filippo Marinetti - *Feet* (on Moodle)
Marinetti, Settimelli, Corra "The Futurist Synthetic Theatre, 1915" (on Moodle)
print out all readings and bring to class for discussion
- Th 1/29 Tristan Tzara - *The Gas Heart* (on Moodle)
Tristan Tzara - "Dada Manifesto, 1918" (on Moodle)
print out both readings and bring to class for discussion
"Theater and Culture to 1950" (WA)
- T 2/3 Eugene O'Neill - *The Hairy Ape*
PAPER #1 - 3 QUESTIONS DUE by email @ start of class
- Th 2/5 **PRESENTATIONS: the Federal Theater Project**
film: The Cradle Will Rock – time and place TBA
- T 2/10 introduction to pataphysical theater, Alfred Jarry, and Christian Bok
readings on Alfred Jarry
excerpt from *Ubu Roi (King Ubu)*
possible additional reading TBA
PAPER #1 - THESIS STATEMENT DUE by email @ start of class (last day for feedback on outlines)

- Wed 2/11 7pm artist-in-residence Christian Bok performance in chapel (required)
- Th 2/12 special class with artist-in-residence Christian Bok
- Th 2/12 FIELD TRIP to *The Hairy Ape* at Goodman (Hypocrites) (tentative)

UNIT #3: ABSURDISM & POSTMODERN DRAMA – THEATER AFTER THE WARS

- T 2/17 Bertolt Brecht - *Mother Courage and Her Children* (scenes 1-7) (WA)
Brecht "Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction" (WA)
- Th 2/19 no class, but **PAPER #1 DUE**
- T 2/24 continue *Mother Courage* (scenes 8-12)
Raymond Williams "Drama from Ibsen to Brecht" (on Moodle)
 - Wed 2/25 7:30pm artist-in-residence Ifa Bayeza talk "Walking with Emmett," followed by a solo reading of an excerpt from the play *The Ballad of Emmett Till* @ McCormick Auditorium (recommended)
- Th 2/26 Jean Genet - *The Maids*
 - Th 2/26 FIELD TRIP to *The Maids* at Writers' Theater, Glencoe
- T 3/3 continue discussing *The Maids*
excerpt from McAuley's *Space in Performance* pp. 186-198 (on Moodle)
begin Samuel Beckett - *Endgame* (WA)
- Th 3/5 continue discussing *Endgame*
Martin Esslin, from *The Theatre of the Absurd* (WA)

SPRING BREAK - no class

- T 3/17 Harold Pinter - *The Homecoming* (Act I) (WA)
- Th 3/19 continue *The Homecoming* (Act II)
Interview with Peter Hall (WA)
Frederic Jameson "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" (WA)

UNIT #4: POSTCOLONIAL AND CONTEMPORARY DRAMA

- T 3/24 Amiri Baraka - *Dutchman* (WA)
Ntozake Shange - *spell #7* (WA)

- Th 3/26 Wole Soyinka - *Death and the King's Horseman* (Acts I-III) (WA)
PAPER #2 - 3 QUESTIONS DUE by email @ start of class
- see the musical *Pippin* 3/26 - 4/4 in Hixon Hall (required)
- T 3/31 continue *Death and the King's Horseman* (Acts IV-V)
Gilbert and Tompkins from *Post-Colonial Drama* (WA)
Soyinka "Drama and the African World-View" (on Moodle)
- Th 4/2 **RE-ENACTMENT : The Wilson-Brustein Debate**
readings due:
August Wilson "The Ground on Which I Stand" (WA)
Robert Brustein "Subsidized Separatism" (WA)
Richard Schechner
"Race Free, Gender Free, Body Type Free, Age Free Casting" (on Moodle)
Carrie Sandahl "The Tyranny of Neutral" (on Moodle)
PAPER #2 - THESIS STATEMENT DUE by email @ start of class (last day for feedback on outlines)
- T 4/7 NO CLASS - Student Symposium
- Th 4/9 Aimé Césaire - *A Tempest* (WA)
- T 4/14 continue discussing *A Tempest*
Franz Fanon "The Fact of Blackness" (WA)
PAPER #2 DUE
- Th 4/16 Yasmina Reza - *Art*
- Th 4/16 FIELD TRIP to *Art* at Steppenwolf
- T 4/21 continue discussing *Art*
- Th 4/23 Tony Kushner - *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches* (Act I)
- see the Garrick Players show *The Gas Heart* 4/22 - 4/26 in Hixon Hall (required)
- T 4/28 continue *Angels in America* (Act II)
distribute final exam
- Friday, May 1 @ 4:30pm – final exam DUE