

Western Literature Group

Modern European Drama BEL E-703

Course Outcomes

After completion of this course student will be able to:

- Demonstrate thorough knowledge in the field of Modern Drama.
- Be Familiar with different types of theatre.
- Broaden their knowledge in new patterns of Drama.
- Differentiate between Elizabethan Drama and Modern Drama

Unit I

Henrik Ibsen *Ghosts*

Unit II

Bertolt Brecht *The Good Woman of Szechuan*

Unit III

Eugene Ionesco- *Rhinoceres*

Unit IV

Harold Pinter- *Birthday Party*

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations

Politics, Social Change and the

Stage Text and Performance

European Drama: Realism and Beyond

Tragedy and Heroism in Modern European

Drama The Theatre of the Absurd

References

- Constantin Stanislavski, *An Actor Prepares*, chap. 8, 'Faith and the Sense of Truth', tr. Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1967) sections 1, 2, 7, 8,9, pp. 121–5, 137–46.
- Bertolt Brecht, 'The Street Scene', 'Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction', and 'Dramatic Theatre vs Epic Theatre', in *Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic*, ed. and tr. John Willett (London: Methuen, 1992) pp. 68–76, 121–8.
- George Steiner, 'On Modern Tragedy', in *The Death of Tragedy* (London: Faber, 1995) pp. 303–24.
- Barr, Shepherd. *Modern Drama: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Brecht, Bertolt, and John Willett. *Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic*. Bloomsbury, 2015.
- Camus, Albert. *The Myth of Sisyphus*. Penguin, 2005.
- Curran, A. "Brecht's Criticisms of Aristotle's Aesthetics of Tragedy." *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, vol. 59, no. 2, pp. 167–184.
- Ellmann, Richard. *The Modern Tradition: Backgrounds of Modern Literature*. Oxford Univ. Pr., 1980.
- Esslin, Martin. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. Vintage, 2001.
- Gale, Maggie B., et al. *The Routledge Drama Anthology: from Modernism to Contemporary Performance*. Routledge, 2016.
- O'connor, John, and J. L. Styan. "Modern Drama in Theory and Practice, Volume III: Expressionism and Epic Theatre." *Theatre Journal*, vol. 35, no. 2, 1983, pp. 267-268, doi:10.2307/3207165.
- Pal, Swati. *Modern European Drama: Ibsen to Beckett*. Pencraft International, 2016.