

SYLLABUS

SUBJECT: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH DRAMA – LECTURE

TEACHER: DR AGNIESZKA KALLAUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course objective is to acquaint the students with selected trends and movements in the contemporary British drama. The course focuses on the most prominent 20th century British playwrights, including G.B. Shaw, O. Wilde, N. Coward, J. Osborne, S. Beckett and H. Pinter and their dramatic work. Selected problems are presented and illustrated with film adaptations of the plays discussed.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students are expected to get familiar with the predominant trends, genres as well as the main representatives of the contemporary British drama and assess their contribution to the European tradition of the 20th century drama.

GRADING POLICY

Credit after semester 1, based on students' positive results in the final test.

TIMETABLE

1 hr a week or 2 hrs every other week.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

Eyre, Richard and Nicholas Wright, *Changing Stages: A View of British and American Theatre in the Twentieth Century*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2001

Innes, Christopher *Modern British Drama: 1890-1990*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1992

Styan J.L. *Modern Drama in Theory and Practice*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981

Esslin, Martin *The Theatre of the Absurd*, Anchor Books, New York, 1961

Esslin, Martin *The Field of Drama*, Methuen, London and New York, 1987

Esslin, Martin *Pinter: A Study of His Plays*, Eyre Methuen, London, 1970

Unwin, Stephen & Carole Woddis *A Pocket Guide to 20th-Century Drama*, London, Faber & Faber, 2001

SELECTED AUDIO/VIDEO MATERIALS:

George Cukor (director) *My Fair Lady* (DVD) (based on *Pygmalion* by G.B. Shaw)

John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger* (DVD), *The Entertainer* (Audio CD)

Harold Pinter, *The Caretaker* (Audio CD); *The Birthday Party* (DVD)

Samuel Beckett *Waiting for Godot* (Audio CD);

Tom Stoppard *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (DVD)

Oscar Wilde *The Importance of Being Earnest* (DVD)

PREREQUISITES:

Students are required to be familiar with general trends in British literature, preferably should have completed the course in the history of British literature