

HL3006: Modern Drama
Module Convener: Dr. Grace Lim
 AY 24/25 Semester 1
 3-hour Weekly Seminar
 Thursdays, 1.30 – 4.30pm Venue TBD

Course Description:

This module teaches you the skills and vocabulary required to close read Modern Drama. You will learn how to analyse and evaluate hard copy scripts and to recognise the way in which these scripts contribute to evolving theatrical traditions – and what these evolving traditions owe to changes in society more generally. Special attention will be given to how and why theatre often disrupts its primary narrative to draw attention to its artificiality, and why this feature may/may not have become more explicit in contemporary theatre.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Compare and contrast major trends in 20th Century Drama, including Realism, Anti-Realism, the Absurd, Meta-theatre and Postmodern drama.
2. Explain how certain theatrical features of the later 20th C are an explicit response to Naturalism.
3. Evaluate information sources critically and employing them in your critical writing
4. Raise critically informed questions which sustain an extended critical treatment of a major theatrical text.

Please note that all texts listed in this provisional syllabus are subject to change due to availability.

Students are expected to borrow/access/purchase their own texts. All editions welcome.

Wk	Topic	Reading/Activities
1	Introduction The Variety of Dramatic Form	NA
2 3	Early Modern Drama: Realism, Naturalism and Objectivity	August Strindberg, <i>Miss Julie</i>
4	Anti-Realism	[Screening] Luigi Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>
5	Anti-Realism	Luigi Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>
6	Feminist Drama	Caryl Churchill. <i>Top Girls</i>
7	Poor Theatre – Actor Training and Staging	Jerzy Grotowski, <i>Towards a Poor Theatre</i> [Excerpt] and

		<i>The Constant Prince</i> [Excerpt]
	Recess Week	
8	Thesis Workshopping (Research Proposal Due) Immediate Feedback given in class.	N/A
9	Theatre of the Absurd	Samuel Beckett, <i>Krapp's Last Tape</i>
10	Rise of the One-Act (Final Essay Due)	Luis Valdez. <i>Los Vendidos</i> Kuo Pao Kun, <i>The Coffin is too Big for the Hole</i>
11	Meta-theatre and Censorship	Athol Fugard, <i>The Island</i>
12		
13	Final Exam Briefing	NA <i>Please refer to NTU's student resources to double-check the time, date and location of your final exam.</i>
<p>Assessments: 10% - Class Participation 5% - Research Proposal 35% - Final Essay 50% - Final Exam</p> <p>AI Course Policy: The use of generative AI is <u>not allowed</u> during assessments. Should AI be used in individual cases with specific approval, you must follow the citation rules and regulations as set out by the university.</p> <p>Note: Additional critical theories/secondary sources may be included at points during the semester as a tool for furthering learning.</p>		