



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA326 Modern Drama

Semester 2, 2009

<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

Unit coordinator:	Dr Rose Gaby	
Contact details:	Room:	547
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
	Telephone:	(03) 6226 2349
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Consultation times:	Tuesdays 2-3 pm (except weeks 21 & 22) Wednesdays 10-12 am (except weeks 21 & 22)	

<p>Unit description:</p>	<p>The advent of film and television has highlighted the artificiality of live theatre and made it seem, for many, a redundant mode of communication. In response modern drama has been preoccupied with articulating a new role for itself, focusing attention on its own rituals and the intensity of the actor/audience relationship, and drawing power from the contradictions of its form. This unit aims to introduce a range of provocative late 20th-century dramatic texts and to consider the kind of voice modern drama has developed.</p>
<p>Unit aims and objectives:</p>	<p>This unit aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ introduce students to a selection of disparate and influential dramatic texts from recent decades ◇ familiarize students with the field of modern drama by exposure to a wide range of critical approaches ◇ investigate the social contexts of modern drama by considering the historical conditions governing the production and reception of the set texts ◇ investigate the physical conditions that have shaped modern drama (changing ideas about theatre space and the stage–audience relationship) ◇ consider the functions and significance of live theatre in contemporary society
<p>Learning outcomes:</p>	<p>At the completion of this unit you should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse the set texts with reference to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the period and culture that produced them b) the physical contexts of modern drama 2. Demonstrate familiarity with recent theoretical and critical work on modern drama. 3. Construct a coherent argument informed by knowledge of areas listed in the unit aims and objectives. 4. Communicate through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Oral participation in tutorials b) Written essays c) Exams

<p>Required texts:</p>	<p>Beckett, Samuel. <i>Waiting for Godot</i>. Faber and Faber.</p> <p>Pinter, Harold. <i>The Birthday Party</i>. Faber and Faber.</p> <p>Orton, Joe. <i>What the Butler Saw</i>. Faber and Faber.</p> <p>Shaffer, Peter. <i>Equus</i>. Longman.</p> <p>Churchill, Caryl. <i>Top Girls</i>. Methuen Drama.</p> <p>Kane, Sarah. <i>Blasted</i>. Methuen Drama.</p> <p>Marber, Partick. <i>Closer</i>. Methuen Drama.</p> <p>Hare, David. <i>Gethsemane</i>. Faber and Faber.</p> <p>Note: Required texts are stocked by and can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop online or on campus. The library also holds copies of all required texts on reserve.</p>
<p>Timetable:</p>	<p>Lectures: Mondays 12.00-12.50 SB Centen 118.LT</p> <p>Tutorials: Mondays 1.10-2.30 InfoSys 216</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesdays 11.00-12.20 InfoSys 216</p> <p>Film Screenings: Tuesdays from 1.10 Centen 118.LT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(weeks 16, 20, and 24 only)</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>1x500 word exercise (10%), 1x3000 word essay (50%), 1x2hr exam (40%)</p>

LECTURE / SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week & Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial	Film Screening
14, 13/7	Unit Introduction	No tutorials	
15, 20/7	Post-war theatre: trends and issues	<i>Changing Stages</i>	
16, 27/7	Samuel Beckett and Theatre of the Absurd	<i>Waiting for Godot</i>	<i>Waiting for Godot</i>
17, 3/8	Harold Pinter, <i>The Birthday Party</i>	<i>The Birthday Party</i>	
18, 10/8	Joe Orton, <i>What the Butler Saw</i> Exercise due, Friday 14/8	<i>What the Butler Saw</i>	
19, 17/8	Peter Shaffer, <i>Equus</i>	<i>Equus</i>	
20, 24/8	Theatre from the 1980s on	Essay Workshop	<i>Equus</i>
Mid-semester break: 31 Aug – 6 Sep 2009			
21, 7/9	Caryl Churchill, <i>Top Girls</i>	<i>Top Girls</i>	
22, 14/9	Reading Week: No Classes Major Essay Due Friday 18/9	No Classes	
23, 21/9	Sarah Kane, <i>Blasted</i>	<i>Blasted</i>	
24, 28/9	Partick Marber, <i>Closer</i>	<i>Closer</i>	<i>Closer</i>
25, 5/10	David Hare, <i>Gethsemane</i>	<i>Gethsemane</i>	
26, 12/10	Review & Exam Advice	Review	
Study week: 19 – 23 Oct 2009			
Exam period: 24 Oct – 10 Nov 2009			

ASSESSMENT

Task	Due	Percentage
500 word exercise	Friday 14/8	10%
3000 word essay	Friday 18/9	50%
1x2hr exam	Scheduled in the official examination period.	40%

Assessment task 1	
Task description	Short analysis task: topic to be distributed in class
Task length	500 words
Links to learning outcomes	This task assesses learning outcomes 1b, 3 and 4b
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete this task you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Analyse one of the set texts with reference to the physical contexts of modern drama. 3. Construct a coherent argument informed by knowledge of areas listed in the unit aims and objectives. 4. Communicate ideas in the form of a written essay using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a logical and appropriate essay structure b) clear expression c) accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling d) referencing that conforms to MLA style
Submission instructions	This task does not require electronic submission (Turnitin). Assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form (not by email) to the School office by 5pm on the due date. See the “Important Information” section at the end of this Unit Outline for instructions on submitting the hard copy.

Assessment task 2	
Task description	Research essay; topics to be distributed in class
Task length	3000 words
Links to learning outcomes	This task assesses learning outcomes 1a, 2, 3, and 4b
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete this task you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically analyse the set texts with reference to the period and culture that produced them. 2. Demonstrate familiarity with recent theoretical and critical work on modern drama. 3. Construct a coherent argument informed by knowledge of areas listed in the unit aims and objectives. 4. Communicate ideas in the form of a written essay using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a logical and appropriate essay structure b) clear expression c) accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling d) referencing that conforms to MLA style
Submission instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy AND electronically. See the “Important Information” section at the end of this Unit Outline for instructions on submitting the hard copy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assignments must be submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission. The electronic and hard copy assignments must be identical. Essays which are not submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission will not be marked. ○ You are required to submit assignments electronically using the MyLO site "HEA326 Modern Drama." To submit an assignment, click on the "Turnitin Submission" folder located on the unit home-page, then on the icon named "Research Essay" which will connect you to the Turnitin service and step you through submitting your assignment. <p>Turnitin is one of the tools used by the University of Tasmania to help staff and students manage issues related to academic integrity. For further information see http://www.utas.edu.au/turnitin/students/.</p>
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Assessment task 3	
Task description	Exam
Task length	2 hours
Links to learning outcomes	The exam will assess learning outcomes 1a, 3 and 4c.
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete the exam you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically analyse the set texts with reference to the period and culture that produced them. 2. Construct coherent arguments informed by knowledge of areas listed in the unit aims and objectives.

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| | <p>3. Communicate through exam essays using logical and appropriate structure and clear written expression.</p> |
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HEA326 Modern Drama: Reading Suggestions

Journals

Modern Drama, *Theatre Quarterly*, *Theatre Research International*, *Drama*, *Plays and Players* (recent issues in State Library). For the more recent writers in this unit the best approach is to search databases like JSTOR and Project Muse for full-text articles.

General Reference:

- Aston, Elaine. *Feminist Views on the English Stage: Women Playwrights, 1990-2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2003.
- Brand, George W., ed. *Modern Theories of Drama: a Selection of Writings on Drama and Theatre, 1850-1990*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1998.
- Buse, Peter. *Drama + Theory: Critical Approaches to Modern British Drama*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2001.
- D'Monté, Rebecca and Graham Saunders, eds. *Cool Britannia?: British Political Drama in the 1990s*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Esslin, Martin. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1961.
- Hayman, Ronald. *Theatre and Anti-Theatre: New Movements Since Beckett*. New York: Oxford UP, 1979.
- Innes, Christopher. *Modern British Drama: The Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002.
- King, Kimball. *Modern Dramatists*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Rabey, David Ian. *English Drama since 1940*. London: Longman, 2003.
- Rebellato, Dan. *1956 And All That: The Making of Modern British Drama*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Sierz, Aleks. *In-yer-face Theatre: British Drama Today*. London: Faber and Faber, 2001.
- Smiley, Sam. *Theatre, The Human Art*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.
- Styan, J.L. *Modern Drama in Theory and Practice*. Vols 1-3. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1981.
- The English Stage: A History of Drama and Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996.
- Trussler, Simon. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of British Theatre*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994.
- Wandor, Michelene. *Post-war British Drama: Looking Back in Gender*. London: Routledge, 2001

Plays and Playwrights

- Bigsby, Joe. *Joe Orton*. London: Methuen, 1982.
- Billington, Michael. *The Life and Work of Harold Pinter*. London: Faber, 1996.
- Bradby, David. *Beckett: Waiting for Godot*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001.
- Esslin, Martin. *Pinter: The Playwright*. London: Methuen, 1992
- Gale, Steven. *Harold Pinter: Critical Approaches*. Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 1986.
- Gordon, Lois. *Pinter at 70: A Casebook*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Homden, Carol. *The Plays of David Hare*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995.
- Lahr, John. *Prick Up Your Ears: The Biography of Joe Orton*. New York: Random House, 1978.
- Pilling, John. *The Cambridge Companion to Beckett*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994.
- Raby, Peter, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Harold Pinter*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001.
- Saunders, Graham. *Love Me or Kill Me: Sarah Kane and the Theatre of Extremes*. Manchester and New York: Manchester UP, 2002.
- Taylor, John Russell. *Peter Shaffer*. Harlow : Longman for the British Council, 1974.
- Trussler, Simon. *The Plays of Harold Pinter*. London: Gollancz, 1973

The State Library's reference section also holds some useful texts.

School of English, Journalism and European Languages

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Late assignments

Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

Honours and postgraduate research project units (400 and 700 level)

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.

Return of marked assignments

Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised. In some cases, particularly where an assignment is the final, exam equivalent piece of assessment, the marked assignment may not be returned until after final unit results have been released.

University statement on plagiarism and academic integrity

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>. The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>"

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Referencing

The English, French and German disciplines and the Screen Studies major use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

Marking scale

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

Honours

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Equipment loans

Please note that some units taught in the school may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment. Although access to equipment may be provided during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan.

Difficulties with your studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or Student Services staff as soon as possible. Please see <http://www.studentservices.utas.edu.au> for more information about the support services available to students.

IT support

MyLO: <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

IT help desk: <http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>