

Purposes: To become acquainted with and learn to interpret the works of major modern and contemporary playwrights, from the late 19th century to the present.
To understand international theatrical modernism as a distinctive aesthetic and cultural phenomenon.
To appreciate and enjoy modern and contemporary plays: on the page and in performance.
To have the experience of reading and discussing a play and then seeing its adaptation as a world premiere opera.
To gain insight into how a play is translated from page to performance.

Texts: Klaus, Gilbert, Field, *Stages of Drama*. 5th edition.
Ibsen, *Four Major Plays* (Oxford)
Inge, *Picnic* (Dramatists Play Service)

January 21 Introductory + Strindberg, *Miss Julie*

28 *Miss Julie* + Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

February 4 Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*

11 Shaw, *Pygmalion*

18 Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

25 **Hour Exam** + O'Neill, *Homecoming*

March 4 Ibsen, *Ghosts*

11 **Spring Break**

18 Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*

25 Lorca, *The House of Bernarda Alba*

April 1 Inge, *Picnic* + Preview of Larsen/Holley opera

8 Larsen/Holley, *Picnic* + Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

15 Beckett, *Endgame*

22 Wilson, *Fences*

29 Fugard, "*Master Harold*" . . . and the Boys **Term paper due**

May 4 **Take-home final due**

Group work: Scene presentation. We will divide into groups of two students. Twice during the semester each group will make a fifteen-minute presentation analyzing/interpreting an important scene in one of the plays.

Productions to be seen as part of the course:

Ibsen, *Ghosts*

Triad Stage 15 March-5 April

Larsen/Holley, *Picnic* (opera)

UNCG 2-3, 5 April

Term paper: Undergraduate–7-10 pages

Graduate–10-12 pages

Interpretive but with **library** research (at least three book and/or journal sources)

Presentations	20%
Midterm	20%
Term paper	30%
Final	30%

Cushman office hours: McIver 104
Thursday 2-4

keith_cushman@uncg.edu

Telephone: 334-5660