

# EL590 Modern British Drama

Instructor: ASLI TEKINAY

[tekinay@boun.edu.tr]

Schedule: T 2 3 4 (TB 480)

Office hours: T 5 6

**Course objective:** To provide a study of British drama over the course of the last hundred years with reference to major dramatic theories as well as key socio-political/historical/cultural events.

**Methodology:** Each class will be devoted to the analysis of a particular playwright or theatrical movement. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned play(s) and done sufficient background reading.

**Prerequisite reading:** *Aristotle's Poetics*

*Nietzsche's Birth of Tragedy*

*Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty*

**Useful websites:** [www.theatrevoice.com](http://www.theatrevoice.com)

[www.inyerface-theatre.com](http://www.inyerface-theatre.com)

## **Schedule:**

Week 1: Introduction

[Modern/Modernist Drama;

Week 2: Introduction

[British Drama 1900-1945]

Week 3: 1956 Stage Revolution

[Angry Drama/Kitchen-Sink Drama: John

Osborne's "Look Back in Anger" and Arnold

Wesker's "Chicken Soup with Barley" and "Roots"]

Week 4: Absurd Drama

[Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"]

Week 5: Absurd Drama

[Harold Pinter's "The Birthday Party",

"Old Times", "The Collection"]

Week 6: Theatre of Violence

[Edward Bond's "Saved" and "Lear"]

Week 7: Comedy

[Alan Ayckbourn's "How the Other Half Loves"  
and "Bedroom Farce"]

Week 8: Adaptation

[Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and  
Guildenstern are Dead" and "Travesties"]

Week 9: Feminist Drama

[Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls" and Martin  
McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"]

Week 10: In-yer-face Theatre

[Sarah Kane's "Blasted"]

Week 11: In-yer-face Theatre

[Mark Ravenhill's "Shopping and Fucking"]

**Assessment:**

\*Students are expected to attend all classes.

\*Attendance and participation in class discussions are of utmost importance.

\*Students will be asked to write reaction papers (max. 1000 words) about plays assigned for each week. Each student is expected to write six reaction papers in total.

\*Each student will be asked to give two oral presentations.

\* One of the presentations will be turned into the course essay (min. 4000 words).

**The breakdown of marks is as follows:**

Class participation and reaction essays: 50%

Two oral presentations: 20%

Course essay: 30 %

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