EN 3357 REALISM IN 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY THEATRE

(Updated Fall 2015)

**PREREQUISITES:**
- WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
- WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing with Ethics
- WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
Study of major texts representative of dramatic realism from the last decades of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Emphasis on dramatic innovation and on the development of modern drama.

**RATIONALE:**
This course offers students the opportunity to study the development of dramatic realism from the end of the nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century. Plays are closely examined in terms of their unique stylistic and thematic features. Dramatic realism in its various forms is studied against the background of social, philosophical, and political attitudes that inform its stylistic and thematic features. Close literary analysis is combined with discussion of the works as stage performance.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Identify the characteristic techniques and thematic concerns associated with various forms of dramatic realism;
2. Assess the relationship between written text and theatrical performance;
3. Explain the varying social, philosophical and political ideas and attitudes embodied in different manifestations of dramatic realism;
4. Analyze the ways in which theatrical and dramatic effectiveness is achieved through playwrights' stylistic experimentation;
5. Demonstrate ability to select appropriate secondary material in support of textual analysis of representative works of 19th and 20th-century drama.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**
In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
- Lectures, class discussions, workshop-style pair work and group work during class meetings;
- Formative exercises and other learning tasks assigned to help students acquire confidence and benefit from independent study;
- Timely instructor feedback on assignments;
- Additional print and audiovisual educational material posted on the Blackboard course template;
- Other relevant educational material placed on reserve in the library;
- Individualized assistance during office hours for further discussion of lecture material, additional reading, assignments and examinations;
- Close collaboration with Librarian and Writing Center Coordinator to...
**ASSESSMENT:**

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<td><strong>Critical Essay</strong> (2,500-3,000 words)</td>
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<td>Critical analysis of author(s) and work(s) developed through close reading and select secondary material; choice of topics offered. Students must use at least 5 critical sources in their essays.</td>
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<td><strong>Comprehensive 2-hour Final examination</strong></td>
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<td>Two essays or one essay and explication of extracts; 1200-1600 words in total; choice of topics offered</td>
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<td>Essay drafts and all in-class and out-of-class assignments in preparation for the examination and the essay</td>
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The formative coursework prepares students for successful completion of the summative coursework.

The critical essay tests learning outcomes 3, 4 and 5.

The final examination tests learning outcomes 1, 2.

**INDICATIVE READING:**

**REQUIRED READING:**


Instructors are required to select **at least seven** of the following plays. To ensure that their choices represent a broad overview, they should select **at least two plays from each** of the following units:

**Varieties of Nineteenth-Century Realism**
- Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll House* or *Hedda Gabler*
- August Strindberg, *Miss Julie*
- Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*
- Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Bernard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*

**Twentieth-Century Experiments in Dramatic Realism**
- Eugene O’Neill, *Desire Under the Elms*
- Federico Garcia Lorca, *The House of Bernarda Alba*
- John Millington Synge, *Riders to the Sea*
- Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie* or *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

**Contesting Realism**
- Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*
- Bertolt Brecht, *Mother Courage*
| RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: | Eugene Ionesco, *The Bald Soprano*, or *Rhinoceros*
| | Samuel Beckett, *Krapp’s Last Tape* or *Endgame*
| | Harold Pinter, *The Dumbwaiter* or *Homecoming*

| INDICATIVE MATERIAL: |
| (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.) |

| COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS: | With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation. |

| SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS: | Word, Blackboard |

| WWW RESOURCES: | [www.bedfordstmartins.com/jacobus](http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/jacobus) |

| INDICATIVE CONTENT: | Varieties of Nineteenth-Century Realism
| | Twentieth-Century Experiments in Dramatic Realism
| | Contesting Realism |