

Title and Code of Course: Modern Irish Drama, Theatre of the Absurd – Samuel Beckett’s Plays on Stage and Film

Instructor’s Name: Dr. Anita Rákóczy, Associate Professor

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Credit Point Value: 6	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination <input type="checkbox"/> In-Class Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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Course Description:

The seminar focuses on the international production history of Samuel Beckett’s plays through drama and performance analysis. Students are also introduced to Beckett’s work as a stage director, his unique method of instructing actors, his management of time and space, and ceaseless struggle for symmetry and silence. From 1966, Beckett directed several of his own plays in Berlin, London and Paris. The seminar offers the possibility of watching a number of these rare recordings in part or whole. Regular attendance, active participation and reading the assigned plays prior to classes are prerequisites for the completion of the course. Maximum three absences are allowed.

Bibliography:

Beckett, Samuel. *The Complete Dramatic Works*. London: Faber and Faber, 1986.
Beckett, Samuel. *The Critical Heritage*. ed. L. Graver and R. Federman, New York: Routledge, 1979, 88-115.
Bignell, Jonathan. *Beckett on Screen. The Television Plays*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009, 114-119, 133-138.
Esslin, Martin: *The Theatre of the Absurd*. London: Bloomsbury, 2001, 19-28.
Haynes, John & James Knowlson. *Images of Beckett*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, 97-147.

Suggested further reading:

Beckett, Samuel. *The Critical Heritage*. ed. L. Graver and R. Federman, New York: Routledge, 1979.
Cohn, Ruby. *Just Play: Beckett’s Theater*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1980.
Kalb, Jonathan. *Beckett in Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
Knowlson, James. *Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.