

Title and Code of Course: European Theatre History – Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama ERPB-BAN 9300

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 ☒ Lecture ☐	Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination ☐ In-Class Presentation ☒ Other ☒
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Course Description:

The seminar aims to provide an introduction to modern and contemporary Irish drama from the late 1800s and the Irish Literary Revival to the present by means of close-reading, and exploring various approaches to theatricality and dramaturgy. Focusing on national, cultural and personal identity, interactive analysis of these key plays of the Irish theatre canon is combined with developing an understanding of their relevance within the Irish cultural history. 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:

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/844/844-h/844-h.htm>

Shaw, G.B. "Mrs Warren's Profession." Byrne, Sandie ed. George Bernard Shaw's Plays. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2002. 3-66.

Yeats, W.B. *The Countess Cathleen* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5167/5167-h/5167-h.htm>

Gregory, Lady. "Spreading the News." Harrington, J.P. ed. Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 36-49.

Synge, J. M. "The Playboy of the Western World." Harrington, J.P. ed. Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 68-112.

O'Casey, S. "Juno and the Paycock." Harrington, J.P. ed. Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 197-246.

Beckett, S. "Endgame." Beckett, S. The Complete Dramatic Works. London: Faber and Faber Limited, 1990. 89-134.

Beckett, S. "Krapp's Last Tape." Beckett, S. The Complete Dramatic Works. London: Faber and Faber Limited, 1990. 213-223.

Carr, M. "By the Bog of Cats." Harrington, J.P. ed. Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 352-397.

Friel, B. "Translations." Harrington, J.P. ed. Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 255-308.

Walsh, E. Chatroom. London: Samuel French Ltd, 2004.

Seminar notes and handouts. A copy of *Chatroom* by Enda Walsh will be made available for consultation. The same is negotiable with other plays that students find hard to acquire, although the rest of the texts are printed in a number of anthologies, available in various libraries in Budapest.

Suggested further reading:

Holdsworth, N. and M. Luckhurst eds. A Concise Companion to British and Irish Drama. Malden: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2008.

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.

Kurdi Mária. Otthonkeresés a színpadon. Beszélgetések ír drámaírókkal. Debrecen: Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadó, 2004.

Mesterházi Márton. Ír ember színpadon. Budapest: Liget Műhely Alapítvány, 2006.

Owens, C.D. and J. N. Radner eds. Irish Drama 1900-1980. Washington D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1990.

Sternlicht, Sanford. A Readers's Guide to Modern Irish Drama. New York: Syracuse University Press, 1998.

