

**MODERN EUROPEAN & AMERICAN DRAMA: A SURVEY**

**Course Description:** A survey course of essential works by leading modern European and American playwrights, from the late nineteenth century to the present. The course will show the effects these works had on acting, as well as on production techniques throughout the 20th century.

**European Plays surveyed:**

Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll House", and "Hedda Gabler"

Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters" and "Seagull"

Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" and "Endgame"

**American Plays surveyed:**

Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh"

Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"

Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" and "Death of a Salesman".

**Recommended Texts:**

Stella Adler on Ibsen, Strindberg, & Chekhov (*available in paperback*)

Stella Adler on America's Master Playwrights (*available in paperback*)

**Week 1**

- Review and critical commentary of Ibsen's "A Doll House" & "Hedda Gabler."
- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

**Week 2**

- Review and critical commentary of Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters" and "Seagull."
- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

**Week 3**

- Review and critical commentary of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" & "Endgame."
- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

**Week 4**

- Review and critical commentary of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night," and "The Iceman Cometh."

- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

#### Week 5

- Review and critical commentary of Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie," and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."
- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

#### Week 6

- Review and critical commentary of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," and "All my Sons."
- Historical influence, production history, and analysis of specific scenes and characters in each play.

#### Week 7

- Overview of the careers and influences of each of the six featured playwrights.
- Commentary on the overall body of work by each playwright.

#### Week 8

- In what direction has modern European and American gone since the advent of the above playwrights?
- Commentary on current European and American playwrights, including Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard, Tony Kushner, Edward Albee and many more.

*Just as my Shakespeare Seminars included appearances by guest artists and actors, I expect to feature appearances by others as well.*