

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Twentieth-Century Drama
English**

Plays to be studied:

First term:

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler* (1891)
Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)
Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard* (1904)
Shaw, *Pygmalion* (1913)
Glaspell, *Trifles* (1916)
Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1921)
Brecht, *The Good Person of Setzuan* (1938-40)
O'Neill, (1941)
Genet, *The Maids* (1947)
Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)

Second term:

Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (1953)
Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
Pinter, *Old Times* (1971)
Shepard, *Buried Child* (1978)
Thompson, *The Crackwalker* (1980)
Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1983)
Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (1988)
Kushner, *Angels in America, Part 1* (1991)
Parks, *The America Play* (1994)
Albee, *The Goat* (2002)

Methods of Evaluation

Two essays, one in each term	15% and 30% (see below for details)
Performance and Participation	20% (see below for details)
Final Exam April 2017	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Essay Policy:

You should hand in your essays in class or place them in the English Department Essay Drop Box in the hallway of AHB, near the main English Department Office. ALWAYS KEEP A COPY OF YOUR ESSAY.

Late Essays will be penalized 1% per day.

Participation/Performance Work (20%)

In the first hour of each Tuesday's class, beginning in the first week of October, we will forgo the formalities of a traditional university lecture and get down to the business of performance. I will be dividing the class into four groups, and each week you, the students, will run our final hour.

Essay 2: Compare and contrast TWO plays from either or both terms, using one of the topics listed above.

Length: 2500-3000 words

Format: MLA for undergraduate research essays

Worth: 30%

Due: Thurs. April 6, 2017

As with the first-term essay, choose ONE of the broad topics listed above **(which you must narrow down very specifically to construct a clear argument)**.

Again: do some preliminary research on this topic with reference to the plays you are exploring. **You may write more than once on the same topic (for example, family), but make sure you cover ONE play in Essay 1 and TWO different plays from your Essay 1 play in Essay 2.**

NB: As in Term 1, meet at least ONCE with the professor and/or the TA to discuss your paper well before the due date.

Timetable:

Sept 8—Introduction to the course, aims and objectives, general business

Sept 13-15—1890s I: Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler* (1891)

Sept 20-22—1890s II: Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)

Sept 27—Early 20thC: Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard* (1904)

NB: Instructor away at a conference on Thursday Sept 29. No Class.

Oct 4-6—1910s I: Shaw, *Pygmalion* (1913)

