





English (ENGL) 304

A History of Drama - Part II: Modernist Theatre (Revision 4)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

ENGL 211 and **ENGL 212** or equivalent first year English course(s).

Precluded:

ENGL 300. (ENGL 304 may not be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for ENGL 300.)

Challenge:

ENGL 304 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 



Overview

English 304: A History of Drama Part II: Modernist Theatre is a senior-level university course which examines the beginnings of Western modernism in plays of the nineteenth and twentieth century from Europe, Britain, the United States, and Canada. It considers the “realistic” interrogation of social dynamics in the plays of Henrik Ibsen, Bernard Shaw, and Anton Chekhov; the satirical dimensions of epic theatre in a play by Bertolt Brecht; the expressionistic style of Eugene O’Neill; and the metatheatre of Luigi Pirandello. It examines the characteristics of the “Theatre of the Absurd” in plays by Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter; and of postcolonial theatre in plays by Timberlake Wertenbaker, Brian Friel, Jack Davis, Tomson Highway and Athol Fugard. It concludes with a consideration of the postmodern stylistic and thematic aspects of *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Wang. English 304 provides an analysis of individual plays as theatre and as text, and includes brief background notes on the authors and on the significance of the plays in the context of Western theatre.

Outline

- Act I—Social Realism: Dialogic and Dialectic
- Act II—Expressionist, Epic, and Absurdist Theatre: Personal and Public Voice
- Act III—Postcolonialism and Postmodernism: Reconfiguring the Stage

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ENGL 304, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  and a grade of at least D (50 percent) on the final examination. A supplemental examination is available. All assignments are required in order to pass the course. The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Scene Analysis	10%

Activity	Weight
Critical Review	20%
Essay Proposal	5%
Essay	25%
Examination	40%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama 6th ed. Ed. W. B. Worthen. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, 2011.  (Print)



Timberlake Wertenbaker. *Our Country's Good*. Woodstock, IL: The Dramatic Publishing Company, 1989.  (Print)

Studying Plays, 3rd ed. Mick Wallis and Simon Shepherd. London: Arnold, 2010.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other course materials are online.

Special Course Features

Several of the plays in ENGL 304 are available for streaming viewing via the [AU Landing](#) , or via the Athabasca University Library's [Theatre in Video database](#) .



Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation




To [receive credit](#)  for the ENGL 304 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least (D 50 percent) on the examination, and a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  overall.

Activity	Weight
Critical Essay	50%
Exam	50%
Total	100%

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Important links

> [Academic advising](#) 

- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View [previous revision](#) 
