

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : Twentieth-Century Drama (2AN1410)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through reader-response papers
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

Contenu:

In the spirit of Eugene O'Neill, America's greatest dramatist, this proseminar will focus on nine playwrights' attempts to develop a modern form of drama that fits the American experience. Beginning in the wake of the Great Depression and ending with the AIDS epidemic, we will look at how twentieth-century history has shaped the topics addressed in these plays, but also their form. What is the relation between what critic Raymond Williams has labeled "private tragedy" and the public narrative of the United States in the so-called American century? In addition to in-class screenings of extracts from the plays, professional actor Sandro de Feo will conduct two workshops in order to help us better understand some differences between drama and performance (« page and stage »).

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : one in-class oral presentation on a critical article (10%) ; two shorter essays (6-8 double-spaced pages) (90%).

Note: Failure to hand in a written assignment in the accorded time, without an accepted reason, will automatically result in a failing grade.

Documentation:

Texts will be available online or on Claroline.

These include (subject to modification):

Thornton Wilder, *Out Town* (1936)
 Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie* (1944)
 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
 Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (1956)
 Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
 Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962)
 Sam Shepard, *True West* (1980)
 David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984)
 Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: Millenium Approaches* (1993)

Recommended:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature. New York: W. W. Norton.

Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

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Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)