

Theatre Arts/English 275  
**Modern Drama: Ibsen to World War I**  
Professor Mazer  
Fall 2021

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Actual office hours (519 Annenberg Center or 113 Fisher-Bennett Hall) and virtual office hours (Zoom office: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/8848453863>): by appointment.

August 31: Introduction

September 2: Alexandre Dumas, fils, *The Lady of the Camellias*.

[September 7: no class.]

September 9: Emile Zola, *Thérèse Raquin*; “Preface to *Thérèse Raquin*.”

September 14: Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll House*.

[September 16: no class.]

September 21: *A Doll House* (cont.); G. Bernard Shaw, “Ideals and Idealists” and “The Technical Novelty of Ibsen’s Plays,” from *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*; [potential streaming video assignment].

September 23: Ibsen, *The Master Builder*.

September 28: August Strindberg, *Miss Julie*.

September 30: *Miss Julie* (cont.): Una Chaudhuri, “Private Parts: Sex, Class, and Stage Space in *Miss Julie*”; [potential streaming video assignment]. [Start reading *Peer Gynt*: it’s long!]

October 5: Ibsen, *Peer Gynt*.

**[REQUIRED THEATREGOING: *Minor Character: Six Translations of Uncle Vanya at the Same Time*, Wilma Theatre, October 5-24; exact theatregoing date(s) to be determined.]**

October 7: Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck*. (Pick your own translation, and be prepared for surprises when we discuss the play in class.)

October 12: Maurice Maeterlinck: *The Intruder; Pelléas and Mélisande*.

[Fall break.]

October 19: Frank Wedekind, *Spring Awakening* [N.B. *NOT* the musical!]

October 21: Strindberg, *A Dream Play*.

[**REQUIRED THEATRE GOING:** *The Skin of our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder, Theatre Arts Program, October 21- 24]

October 26: Chekhov, *Uncle Vanya*.

[October 28: TBA]

[**APPROXIMATE DUE DATE:** First take-home assignment.]

November 2: *Uncle Vanya* (cont.)

November 4: *Uncle Vanya* (cont.)

November 9: G. Bernard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

[**APPROXIMATE DUE DATE:** Second take-home assignment.]

November 11: Shaw, *Major Barbara*.

November 16: *Major Barbara* (cont.); Sidney P. Albert, "'In More Ways than One': *Major Barbara's* debt to Gilbert Murray."

November 18: H. Granville Barker, *The Voysey Inheritance*. [N.B. *DO NOT* use either the David Mamet adaptation or the Mint Theatre version.]

November 23: Barker, *The Voysey Inheritance* (cont.)

[Thanksgiving]

November 30: Barker, *The Madras House*

December 2: Cicely Hamilton, *Diana of Dobson's*

December 7: John Millington Synge, *Playboy of the Western World*.

December 9: Catch-up and Conclusions.

## **SCRIPTS AND VIDEOS:**

Whenever possible, I have posted pdfs of the playscripts and the other texts we are reading to our Canvas site, where they can be downloaded. In a few cases, I will be handing out free desk copies I have accumulated through the years. For several of the scripts, I have recommended editions and translations through databases of electronic texts that the library has licensed,

mostly through the “Drama Online” website. To access these texts, YOU MUST LOG INTO THE LIBRARY WEBSITE YOURSELF with your Pennkey, search for the database, access that database, and search the database yourself. (You will see that for some plays there are other editions or translations in Drama Online which the library has chosen not to license.)

In other cases, I will recommend particular editions or translations (I prefer ones that use American, not British idioms), but I HAVE NOT ORDERED THEM; you can easily find them for yourselves. (Many can be ordered on ebay or Amazon.) If you find different translations from the ones I have recommended, ASK ME ABOUT THEM, as some of them are problematic.

I will post information about the scripts and how to get them (and about films and videos I will assign or recommend that are available through streaming or are in the library’s databases or DVD holdings) as I find out more about them.

If you find other film, video, and audio versions (there are many), ASK ME ABOUT THEM.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be TWO take-home essay assignments (approximately 5 pages), plus ONE final paper (approximately 10-12 pages), due at a date to be announced during reading and exam period, on a topic that must MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance in class is crucial; CHRONIC ABSENCE OR LATENESS WILL BE COUNTED AGAINST YOU

### **REQUIRED THEATREGOING:**

In addition to the two live performances listed in the syllabus, there may be local productions or television broadcasts WHICH I WILL REQUIRE YOU TO ATTEND as I hear about them; whenever possible, Theatre Arts will subsidize the cost of the tickets.

### **AND FINALLY:**

Please familiarize yourself with the rules of academic integrity, at <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>. I will rigorously pursue violations of the code.