

ENGL S-163. Contemporary American Drama (CRN: 31646)

Robert Scanlan PhD, Visiting Lecturer, English and American Language and Literature, Harvard University

Reading, discussion, and analysis of contemporary American plays and playwrights and their immediate predecessors of the past half-century. Our reading list represents styles from social realism to avant-garde performance events, the theater of images, feminist performance, and other challenges to conventional theatrical forms. Attention to the social, cultural, and political forces that shaped major aspects of American playwriting. Playwrights include Tony Kushner, David Mamet, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Rabe, John Guare, Paula Vogel, Eve Ensler, August Wilson, and their predecessors, Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neill, Clifford Odets, Lorraine Hansberry, Tennessee Williams, and others.