

Week 13 Day 1: Late Modernist Drama

ENGL201: Introduction to Modernist Literature

Class Schedule

- Housekeeping
- Final Exam
- Postmodernism
- Samuel Beckett

Housekeeping

- I won't be here on Friday.
 - Dr. Stephen Ross and Kailey will facilitate an exam review session
- Extra exam review class: Tuesday April 10 at 12.30 in our normal class
 - Grades for Major Assignment will be returned this day

Final Exam (2 hours)

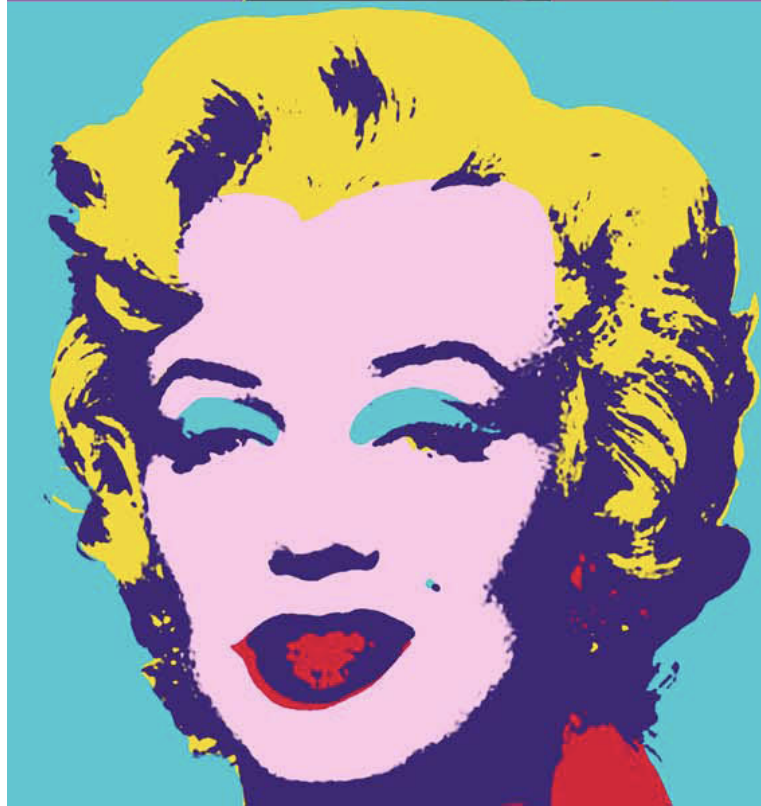
- Section A: Short answers on minor texts. I will provide you with:
 - Short passages, names of text, and authors' names from minor works studied in class;
 - A list of course concepts.
 - You will choose **two** passages and relate each passage to **one** course concept. (You may not use the same passage or the same course concept for both answers)
 - Each short answer should be approximately 250 words long (roughly 1.5 pages).
- Section B: Exam-style essay on *Endgame* or *Hedda Gabler*
 - I will provide you with **two to three** essay prompts.
 - You will choose **one** of those prompts and write an exam-style, close-reading essay of approximately 500 words (3-5 pages, depending on your penmanship).
 - You will be permitted a **printed** text, with marginal notes and stickies (within reason). You are encouraged to quote from the text.

Rules for the Exam

- You are not permitted to write on texts for which you have completed an assignment in the course.
- Please do not put your name on the exam—use only your student number.

Postmodernism

- Mid-to-late 20th century
- Defined by skepticism, irony, and suspicion of “grand narratives”
- Emphasis on “constructedness” and an assertion that the “real” doesn’t exist
- Art refers only to its own creation instead of any external reality



Under postmodernism, the Americanized West was doomed in the 1980s and 1990s, or so it seemed, to a culture of simulacra which had lost all sense of the real and history, all affective apparatus, and any claim to originality other than a recycled pastiche, since parody or satire were now beyond us. (Peter Brooker, "Afterword," 1031)



Epistemology

Multiple and global modernities





Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

Samuel Beckett (1906–1989)

- Anglo-Irish Protestant short story writer, novelist, and playwright
- Wrote in English and French
- Late 1920s:
 - Underwent psychotherapy in London
 - Became the foremost translator of Surrealist poetry into English
 - Began writing in English
- 1940s onwards:
 - Joined the French Resistance and assisted in the reconstruction after WWII
 - Gained renown for French-language plays
- 1969: Won the Nobel Prize for Literature
- *Whoroscope* (1935)
- *Murphy* (1938)
- *En Attendant Godot* (1953)/*Waiting for Godot* (1955)



