

Paper 13: Modern European Drama

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| 1. | Henrik Ibsen | <i>Ghosts</i> |
| 2. | Bertolt Brecht | <i>The Good Woman of Szechuan</i> |
| 3. | Samuel Beckett | <i>Waiting for Godot</i> |
| 4. | Eugene Ionesco | <i>Rhinoceros</i> |

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations

Topics

Politics, Social Change and the Stage

Text and Performance

European Drama: Realism and Beyond

Tragedy and Heroism in Modern European Drama

The Theatre of the Absurd

Readings

1. Constantin Stanislavski, *An Actor Prepares*, chap. 8, 'Faith and the Sense of Truth', tr. Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1967) sections 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, pp. 121–5, 137–46.
2. Bertolt Brecht, 'The Street Scene', 'Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction', and 'Dramatic Theatre vs Epic Theatre', in *Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic*, ed. and tr. John Willet (London: Methuen, 1992) pp. 68–76, 121–8.
3. George Steiner, 'On Modern Tragedy', in *The Death of Tragedy* (London: Faber, 1995) pp. 303–24.