Course description:
This course studies drama in English from mid-20th century to the present, exploring theatre as a mode of understanding and a means of experiencing self and world. It examines the relationship between dramatic strategies and issues addressed in a period when this is a challenge; nowadays there is no consensus about form. We will aim to read theatre as a material and embodied art, a script for performance received differently in differing cultural and historical contexts from the aftermath of WW2 to the current moment. Among the questions we will consider: How does Beckett’s grim humour buoy people up in their struggles to make ends meet and hope for a better world? Do we agree with Shepard that the violence in American life arises from feelings of inadequacy? What does Pinter reveal when he shows us that "So often, below the word spoken is the thing known and unspoken"?

Proposed assignments:
Presentation 10%  Quiz 10%  Short Paper 20%  Long Paper 30%  Final Exam 30%

Proposed readings:
Playwrights studied will include Beckett, Pinter, Churchill, Shepard, Kushner, Nottage.