

**DRA 401: AMERICAN DRAMA**  
**Spring 2026**

**Instructor: ASLI TEKINAY**  
**Office: TB 420**

**Drive Link:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SS8tYZAdIRMq0cAZJH961pVmC1PHsQWu>

**Course Objectives**

- To situate the American theater history of the twentieth century within modern American cultural history.
- To explore the ways in which twentieth century American theatre has contributed to the construction and deconstruction of an American identity.
- To locate key American plays within western dramatic traditions.

**Class policy:**

- Attendance to class is required.  
Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned play for the day. The texts should be brought to class as hard copy or be available on-line via I-pads or laptops - but **not** cell phones.
- There will be pop reading quizzes, two response papers and a final exam.  
Reading quizzes: 20 % (unannounced; no make-ups; the lowest grade will be dropped.)  
Response papers: 30% (absolutely no late submission; it is to be uploaded to the moodle page of the course.)  
Final exam: 50 %

**CONTENT ADVISORY**

**Dear Students:**

**At times, we will be discussing plays that may be disturbing, even traumatizing to some of you. You will find references to sexual abuse, self-harm, or racial / familial / sexual violence in some plays.**

### **Week 1**

**Introduction and  
Pioneering Feminism: *Trifles* (1916)**  
[Susan Glaspell]

### **Week 2**

**The Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance: *Mulatto* (1935)**  
[Langston Hughes]

### **Week 3**

**Southern Themes: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)**  
[Tennessee Williams]

### **Week 4**

**Socio-political Themes: *Death of a Salesman* (1949)**  
(Arthur Miller)

### **Week 5**

**Re-evaluating the Absurd: *The Zoo Story* (1960)**  
[Edward Albee]

### **Week 6**

**New Realism: *Sticks and Bones* (1971)**  
[David Rabe]

### **Week 7**

***The Buried Child* (1978)**  
[Sam Shepard]

**Week 8**

**Feminist Voices: *Getting Out* (1978)**

[Marsha Norman]

**Week 9**

**Crimes of the Heart (1980) :**

[Beth Henley]

**Week 10**

**African American Issues of Race: *Dutchman* (1964)**

(Amiri Baraka)

**Week 11**

***Wine in the Wilderness* (1969)**

[Alice Childress]

**Week 12**

***for colored girls ...* (1976)**

[Ntozake Shange]

**Week 13**

**Asian American Drama: *M. Butterfly* (1990)**

(David Henry Hwang)

---