

ANG-3140: Special Topics in American Literature (American Drama)

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**Course Description**

This course will study the most important plays that constitute the canon of American Drama. The chosen plays are marked by intense questioning of the national identity in the wake of postindustrial capitalism and by the trauma of the postwar experiences. We will focus on the American family as an intersecting symbol for national identity and questions of race, class, urbanity, and gender. We will also explore how American families and the nation engage the promises of the ever-elusive American Dream.

**Pedagogical Approach**

Lectures followed by class discussions, with emphasis on the latter. Students are required to have read the assigned material carefully before each class. Essays and articles will be made available for further reading on the portal. Students are strongly encouraged to read these in order to enhance their knowledge of the works' critical scope. Familiarity with the material will enable students to complete work and enjoy the class as a whole more fully. **All information pertaining to the course can be found on the portal.**

**Plays to be studied (preliminary, subject to change)**

*Our Town*, Thornton Wilder  
*Little Foxes*, Lillian Hellman  
*The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams  
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller  
*A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Edward Albee  
*True West*, Sam Shepard