POSTMODERN AMERICAN DRAMA: AN INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ana Fernández-Caparrós Turina
Universidad de Extremadura, Spain
anafcaparros@unex.es

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SYLLABUS

1. INTRODUCTION: How can we define postmodern drama?

   The features of the theatrical performance

   The problematics inherent in the label ‘postmodernism’: a few definitions

   Key concepts: Fragmented narrative (as opposed to seamless narrative plot), deconstruction of character, acknowledgement of popular and mass culture, self-consciousness of performance.

2. A BIT OF HISTORY: The Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway Movements

3. THE PLAYWRIGHTS: The main focus will be on Sam Shepard; other playwrights such as David Mamet, Tony Kushner, Suzan-Lori Parks and others, will be at least briefly discussed.

READINGS

Excerpts/Scenes from:

Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
Edward Albee’s *The Zoo Story* (1960)
Suggested Secondary Sources


