

**NORW 403: Great Literary Works of Norway**

**HENRIK IBSEN**

Wednesday 15:00-17:50

**Professor:** Dr. Melissa Gjellstad

**E-mail:** [melissa.gjellstad@und.edu](mailto:melissa.gjellstad@und.edu)

**Telephone:** 701.777.0487

### **Required texts**

Ibsen, Henrik. *Ibsen: Four Major Plays. Volume I.* Trans. Rolfe Fjelde. New York: Signet Classics, 2006.

Ibsen, Henrik. *Ibsen: Four Major Plays. Volume II.* Trans. Rolfe Fjelde. New York: Signet Classics, 2001.

Ibsen, Henrik. *Peer Gynt.* Trans. Rolfe Fjelde. Minneapolis: U Minnesota Press, 1980.

### **Recommended texts**

Figueiredo, Ivo de. *Slipp meg. En bok om Henrik Ibsen.* Oslo: Aschehoug, 2006.

Runde, Øystein & Geir Moen. *De fire store: Bukk fra luften, bukk fra bunnen, Obstfelder er forsunnen.* Oslo: Gyldendal, 2007.

Runde, Øystein & Geir Moen. *De fire store: Når de døde våkner.* Oslo: Gyldendal, 2007.

Stranger, Simon. *Gjengangeren.* Oslo: N.W. Damm & Søn, 2006.

### **Required productions**

*A Doll House*, Arild Brinchmann (1973)

*A Doll House*, Simon Stephens (2012)

*An Enemy of the People*, Erik Skjoldbjærg (2004)

*Gatas Gynt*, Hallvard Bræin (2008)

*Ghosts*, Richard Eyre (2014)

*Hedda Gabler*, Paul Willis (2004)

*Immortal Ibsen*, Erling Borgen (1999)

*The Lady from the Sea*, Per Bronken (1979)

*Peer Gynt, by the Pyramids in Giza*, Bentein Baardson (2006)

*Terje Vigen* (1916)

### **Recommended productions**

*A Doll House*, David Thacker (1992)

*An Enemy of the People*, Gareth Davies (1980)

*Ghosts*, Elijah Moshinsky (1987)

*Hedda Gabler*, Alex Segal (1962)

*John Gabriel Borkman* (1974)

*Sara*, Dariush Mahrjui (1992)

*The Lady from the Sea*, Basil Coleman (1974)

*The Master Builder*, Michael Darlow (1988)

*The Master Builder*, Stephen Harrison (1958)

*The Wild Duck*, Alan Bridges (1971)

*The Wild Duck*, Arild Brinchmann (1970)

**Course goals:** Henrik Ibsen bears the title “The Father of Modern Drama.” This course will take an in-depth look at the plays of Henrik Ibsen that garnered him that designation, beginning with his 1867 play *Peer Gynt* and ending with his next to final work from 1896, *John Gabriel Borkman* (in 1899 came his last play, *When We Dead Awaken*). In order to appreciate Ibsen as a playwright, this course also incorporates performances of Ibsen’s plays on the stage and screen. Other materials that show Ibsen’s influence on literary culture will also be used during this course, including his 1862 poem “Terje Vigen.” Attendance is required at film viewing days, which are listed in the syllabus; some productions must be viewed outside of class as well. Students must read each play completely before viewings, and be prepared to discuss the performance and the play.

## Assessments

Graded assignments will include three kinds of writing assignments (essay, article summary, and blog entries), four quizzes, a project, and a final exam.

- 15% Participation** – Complete assigned readings, contribute to in-class discussions, submit thoughtful work in a timely fashion, attend film viewings.
- 30% Writing Assignments** – Two essays with peer-edited drafts, one article summary, and 10 blog entries, as outlined below.
- **15% – Essays** will be your opportunity to craft a critical reflection based on a question from readings or lectures. Prompts will be distributed in class to help guide your writing. Each essay must be 600 words, typed and double-spaced. Each essay is worth 5%. Your work to peer-edit another student’s draft is worth 2.5% for each essay. Details to follow.
  - **5% – Article Summary** will allow you to investigate current scholarship on Ibsen and give your analysis of a scholar’s take on one of the plays. The assignment worksheet will be distributed in class with additional instructions. This will allow you to locate research documents, analyze it, and recognize disciplinary standards in writing and citation styles.
  - **10% – Ibsen Blog** will ask that you create an effective and concisely written piece that expresses ideas, constructs arguments, and presents information for a given audience or topic. You must complete one blog entry per play, as instructed in Blackboard. Complete the blog while we are reading and discussing each play so that you do not fall behind. Each student will have the chance to be the “Daily Blogger” and present his/her blog to start class. A sign-up sheet will be distributed to choose your day for the Daily Blogger.
- 20% Quizzes** – Four quizzes will cover the content and context of the previous two or three plays, as drama and as theater, including adaptations and biographical information about the author and timeframe for the given plays, productions, and adaptations.
- 20% Project & Presentation** – An outside project, either a research paper or some creative project individually designed. Possible ideas include, but are not limited to: direct or act in scenes from an Ibsen play, construct an Ibsen costume or stage design, write a research or critical paper, animate scenes from an Ibsen, adapt scenes of an Ibsen play to film. (Creating a PowerPoint for the presentation is **not** considered a creative project.) Projects are due at the end of the semester.
- **5% - In Class Presentation** will occur at our Ibsen conference, scheduled on the last class day of the semester, where each student will present her/his final project. The in-class presentation counts for 5% of the total project grade (project = 15%). Details later.
- 15% Final exam** – Comprehensive exam, in multiple choice, short-answer, and essay format; given during assigned final exam period.

## Course outline

- Week 1** Introduction  
View *Peer Gynt, by the Pyramids in Giza* (2006)
- Week 2** *Peer Gynt* – Read Foreword, Acts I-IV (pg. 1-149)  
Read *Ibsen*, Introduction (pg.1-8)  
View *Immortal Ibsen* (1999)
- Week 3** *Peer Gynt* – Read Act V (pg. 150-209) –  
View *Gatas Gynt* (2008)  
**Article Summary Due**
- Week 4** *A Doll House* – Read Act I-III (pg. 39-114)

- Week 5** View *A Doll House*, Arild Brinchmann (1973); Simon Stephens (2012)  
**Quiz #1**
- Week 6** *Ghosts* – Read Act I-III (pg. 1-81)  
Read segments of *Gjengangeren* by Simon Stranger  
View *Ghosts*, Richard Eyre (2014)  
**Draft Essay #1 Due (peer edit)**
- Week 7** *An Enemy of the People* – Read Act I-IV (pg. 83-175)  
View *An Enemy of the People*, Erik Skjoldbjærg (2004)  
**Essay #1 Due**
- Week 8** *An Enemy of the People* – Read Act V (pg. 177-198)  
**Quiz #2**
- Week 9** *The Wild Duck* – Read Act I-V (pg. 115-216)
- Week 10** **No class – Spring break**
- Week 11** *The Lady from the Sea* – Read Act I-V (pg. 199-306)
- Week 12** View *The Lady from the Sea* (1979)  
**Quiz #3**
- Week 13** *Hedda Gabler* – Read Act I-V (pg. 217-304)  
View *Hedda Gabler* (2004)  
**Draft Essay #2 Due (peer edit)**
- Week 14** *The Master Builder* – Read Act I-V (pg. 305-384)  
**Essay #2 Due**
- Week 15** *John Gabriel Borkman* – Read Act I-IV (pg. 309-396)
- Week 16** *De fire store: Når de døde våkner & Bukk fra luften, bukk fra bunnen*  
*Terje Vigen*  
View *Terje Vigen* (1916)  
**Quiz #4**
- Week 17** **Projects due; Ibsen Conference with in class presentations**
- Week 18** **Final Exam**