

Modern Drama: Doing It, Mr. Homan, spring, 2015, meeting Tuesdays period 4, Thursdays, periods 4-5:

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Introduction to the course, including rules and regulations; an experiment with Pinter's *The Lover*

Thursday, Jan. 8: Pinter, *Old Times*: **1.** p. 3 (dark)-p. 6 (I don't know); **2.** p. 6 (She was a thief)-p. 9 (No); **3.** p. 10 (I have no)-p. 13 (none of this matters).

Tuesday, Jan. 13: *Old Times*: **4.** p. 14 (We rarely)-p. 18 (more often than not); **5.** p. 43 (Here we are)-p. 48 (met before).

Thursday, Jan. 15: Pinter, *Betrayal*: **6.** p. 163 (You're)-p. 169 (happening); **7.** p. 180 (I don't)-p. 185 (children); **8.** p. 195 (the fact is)-p. 200 (decision).

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Pinter, *Betrayal*: **9.** p. 230 (I spoke up)-p. 237 (her up); **10.** p. 249 (I went)-p. 252 (you); **11.** pp. 263-68 (scene 9).

Thursday, Jan. 22: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*: **12.** p. 11 (Head)-p. 15 (with light); **13.** p. 18 (Another curious)-p. 21 (they come); **14.** p. 39 (You made)-p. 41 (no practice).

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*: **15.** p. 56- (I think)-p. 59 (Draught, yes); **16.** p. 59 (In that)-p. 61 (Double bluff).

Thursday, Jan. 29: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*: **17.** p. 69 (What did)-p. 71 (to death); **18.** p. 85 (That must)-p. 88 (be violent); **19.** p. 97 (Are you)-p. 99 (to sleep).

Tuesday, Feb. 3: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*: **20.** p. 100 (Well, shall)-p. 102 (from instinct); **21.** p. 107 (Now that)-p. 110 (making conversation); **22.** final speeches of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Thursday, Feb. 5: Shepard, *True West*: **23.** p. 5 (So, Mom)-p. 9 (sleep); **24.** p. 12 (Why'd)-p. 15 (stuff); **25.** p. 20 (all right)-p. 22 (flat); **26.** p. 36 (Red sails)-p. 39 (imagination).

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Shepard, *True West*: **27**. p. 50 (All right, read it)-p. 52 (Good); **28**. P. 24 (No, really)-p. 27 (going); **29**. p. 135 (You shouldn't)-p. 137 (tell me).

Thursday, Feb. 12: Shepard, *Curse of the Starving Class*: **30**. p. 137 (I was lying)-138 (could be heard); **31**. p. 138 (Now)-p. 141 (BOIL IT); **32**. p. 147 (What)-p. 150 (young); **33**. p. 157 (What the hell)-p. 159 (not much).

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Stoppard, *Arcadia*: **34**. pp. 5-7 (Septimus ... now you); **35**. pp. 9-10 (When you ... yourself); **36**. pp. 10-11 (Now sir ... bad enough).

Thursday, Feb. 19: Stoppard, *Arcadia*: **37**. pp. 51-52 (If you ... wrong); **38**. pp. 75-76 (I will take ... Bring a book); **39**. pp. 82-83 (Listen ... Byron); **40**. pp. 89-90 (Mr. Noakes ... a piano); **41**. pp. 95-96 (My lady ... Silence).

Tuesday, February 24: "An Experiment with Pinter's *Last to Go*"

Thursday, Feb. 26: no class

[Spring Break, Feb. 28-March 7]

Tuesday, March 10: Pinter, *No Man's Land*: **42**. p. 79 (Do you)-p. 83 (for you); **43**. p. 84 (And the)-p. 87 (I am).

Thursday, March 12: Pinter, *No Man's Land*: **44**. p. 87 (And I)-p. 92 (no more); **45**. P. 92 (There is)-p. 96 (silent); **46**. p. 128 (You were)-p. 134 (member); **47**. p. 134 (I'm)-p. 137 (your life); **48**. Spooner's last big speech (cut).

Tuesday, March 17: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*: **49**. p. 2 (Nothing to be done)-p. 5 (be happy); **50**. p. 6 (You should have been)-p. 9 (note of it).

Thursday, March 19: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*: **51**. p. 10 (But what Saturday)-p. 13 (leave it); **52**. p. 14 (What exactly)-p. 17 (finish it); **53**. p. 51 (That passed the time)-p. 52 (the same) and also p. 57 (At last)-p. 59 (Yes, let's go).

Tuesday, March 24: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*: **54.** p. 66 (Say you are)-p. 69 (like leaves); **55.** p. 82 (Will you not play?)-p. 86 (has fun).

Thursday, March 26: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*: **56.** p. 107 (What's wrong)-p. 109 (let's go); **57.** p. 107 (What's wrong)-p. 109 (Let's go); **58.** p. 107 (What's wrong)-p. 109 (Let's go).

Tuesday, March 31: Beckett, *All That Fall*: **59.** p. 13 (She doesn't)-17 (Jesus); **60.** p. 29 (Are you)-p. 32 (Maddy); **61.** p. 34 (Why are)-p. 37 (Maiden).

Thursday, April 2: Beckett, *Embers*: **62.** p. 99 (what are)-p. 102 (hear me); **63.** p. 103 (not yet)-p. 104 (a sound).

Tuesday, April 7: **64.** p. 99 (what are)-p. 102 (hear me); **65.** p. 103 (not yet)-p. 104 (a sound).

Thursday, April 9: Beckett, *Eh Joe*: **66.** p. 202 (Joe)-203 (us); **67.** p. 205 (all right)-207 (Eh, Joe?); Beckett, *Not I*: **68.** p. 216 (out)-218 (then listen); **69.** p. 221 (something)-p. 223 (it up).

Tuesday, April 14: Shepard, *Buried Child*: **70.** pp. 64-66 (Dodge ... I suppose); **71.** pp. 73-74 (Of course ... glass); **72.** pp. 83-85 (This is it ... sorry).

Thursday, April 16: **73.** pp. 100-102 (I thought ... than driving); **74.** pp. 108-111 (This is ... enough outa' you); **75.** p. 129 (The house ... but ash); **76.** p. 130 (I was gonna ... dissolved).

Tuesday, April 21: "An Experiment with Pinter's *Last to Go* and Beckett's *Come and Go*

Notes:

1. Each student chooses and works with a scene partner during the semester. Scene assignments will be made at the first and second class meeting. Scene work must be performed on the day assigned since the scene work is the "text" of that day's class; scene work cannot be rescheduled. Scene work must be off-book.

If one of the scene partners cannot make it on the day the scene is due, I will take his or her part, giving some compensation to the actor who does perform since that actor will be working with someone "new." The partner who was unable to perform must do the scene later in my office, during office hours, with my taking the role of his or her partner. That actor must also hand in, at the time of the office performance, a ten-page paper on an assigned topic (on the play in question), as well as the 2-3 page paper (see #2 below) normally written about the actor's

experience rehearsing the scene with a partner. The grade for scene work will be the average of the performance, the short paper, and the ten-page paper.

2. At the time of your performance with your scene partner, hand in (please *do not* send it by e-mail!) a 2-3-page paper, where you discuss your experience during rehearsals. Not just an account, the paper should be an assessment of what you learned, what “discoveries” you made, the way the scene evolved during rehearsals. The paper should be specific, rooted in the script, and should be geared to the dialogue as it evolves in the scene. General points should always be grounded in these specifics. See below for some more detailed comments about what makes a “good paper.”

3. At the next class meeting after your performance, your paper will be returned--with two grades. One is for your acting, the other for the paper. If the two grades are 5 or less points apart, you will be given the higher grade; if they are more than 5 points apart, you will be given the average of the two. The grading scale is: F--anything 59 or below; D--60-66, D+--67-69; C- -70-72, C--73-76, C+--77-79; B- --80-82, B--83-86, B+--87-89; A- --90-92, A--93-100.

Note that the student who has missed the scheduled scene and thereby performs in my office, will write two papers (see #1 above), and receives a grade averaging both papers and the scene work.

4. Attendance is required at every class meeting, and will be taken by the “stage manger” (a student who has volunteered for this position) during the class. Each student is allowed 2 excused absences. Excuses must be made at least one day ahead of time by Professor Homan, preferably by e-mail: shakes@ufl.edu. Excuses made the day of the absence, let alone after the fact, cannot be accepted. In very, *very* rare cases a student can be excused for more than two class meetings, but this must also be approved ahead of time. For each unexcused absence, the student’s grade will be lowered by a letter. Please note there are no exceptions to this. If you miss a class without being excused, the stage manager will e-mail you about this later in the same day.

5. Books: Pinter, *Collected Plays*, volume 4 (containing *Old Times*, *Betrayal*, and *No Man’s Land*); Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, Beckett, *Collected Shorter Plays*, Shepard, *Seven Plays by Sam Shepard*, Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *Arcadia*.

6. Office hour is Thursday, second period (8:30-9:25 AM) in 4109 Turlington Hall.

Some Suggestions for Writing Papers on Scene Work:

1. Try to work as closely with the dialogue, the actual script as possible, and back up every general point with reference to the script.
2. Go through the entire scene, most often in sequence, both the dialogue and what gestures and movement you chose.
3. Don’t just say what happens or what is said, and don’t just explicate or “translate” the words and lines. Rather, discuss the script in terms of: a. your actor’s choices; b. the character’s object (what he or she is after), and c. the character’s subtext (what the

character is thinking and saying to himself or herself beneath the dialogue).

4. Don't spend time setting up the paper, talking about how and where you met, chatting about topics not immediately linked to the script—get right to the scene in question.

5. Your “text” is ultimately not the script itself, not even the playwright's words, but your actor's/director's take on the script and on your character as he or she exists in the script.

6. Have some sense of the larger play, and of the character's role in that larger play, but make sure you don't jump too far from your specific scene. The largest part of your paper should be spent on your particular scene.

7. Be sure that one paragraph follows logically from the preceding one; and make sure there are segues not only between paragraphs but between sections of the individual paragraph—and, for that matter, segues from one sentence to the next.

8. You can be informal as you want, and can use the first person—but observe all the rules of good writing, from spelling to punctuation, from clear word choice to correct grammar.

Pinter, *The Lover*

RICHARD (*amiably*). Is your lover coming today?

SARAH. Mmmn.

RICHARD. What time?

SARAH. Three.

RICHARD. Will you be going out ... or staying in?

SARAH. Oh ... I think we'll stay in.

RICHARD. I thought you wanted to go to that exhibition.

SARAH. I did, yes ... but I think I'd prefer to stay in with him today.

RICHARD, Mmn-hmmm. Well, I must be off.

(He goes to the hall and puts on his bowler hat.)

RICHARD. Will he be staying long do you think?

SARAH. Mmmnnn ...

RICHARD. About ... six, then.

SARAH. Yes.

RICHARD. Have a pleasant afternoon.

SARAH. Mmmn.

RICHARD. Bye-bye.

SARAH. Bye.

Samuel Beckett, *Come and Go*:

CHARACTERS :

FLO

VI

RU

(Age undeterminable)

Sitting center side by side stage right to left FLO, VI and RU. Very erect, facing front, hands clasped in laps. Silence.

VI : When did we three last meet?

RU : Let us not speak. [*Silence. Exit VI right. Silence.*]

FLO : Ru.

RU : Yes.

FLO : What do you think of Vi?

RU : I see little change. [*FLO moves to center seat, whispers in RU's ear. Appalled.*] Oh! [*They look at each other. FLO puts her finger to her lips.*] Does she not realize?

FLO : God grant not. [*Enter VI. FLO and RU turn back front, resume pose. VI sits right. Silence.*] Just sit together as we used to, in the playground at Miss Wade's.

RU : On the log. [*Silence. Exit FLO left. Silence.*] Vi.

VI : Yes.

RU: How do you find FLO?

VI : She seems much the same. [*RU moves to center seat, whispers in VI's ear. Appalled.*] Oh! [*They look at each other. RU puts her finger to her lips.*] Has she not been told?

RU : God forbid. [*Enter FLO. RU and VI turn back front, resume pose. FLO sits left.*] Holding hands . . . that way.

FLO : Dreaming of . . . love. [*Silence. Exit RU right. Silence.*]

VI : Flo.

FLO : Yes.

VI : How do you think Ru is looking?

FLO : One sees little in this light. [*VI moves center seat, whispers in FLO's ear. Appalled.*] Oh! [*They look at each other. VI puts her finger to her lips.*] Does she not know?

VI : Please God not. [*Enter RU. VI and FLO turn back front, resume pose.*]

RU sits right. Silence.] May we not speak of the old days? [Silence.] Of what came after? [Silence.] Shall we hold hands in the old way?

[After a moment they join hands as follows: VI's right hand with RU's right hand. VI's left hand with FLO's left hand, FLO's right hand with RU's left hand, VI's arms being above RU's left arm and FLO's right arm. The three pairs of clasped hands rest on the three laps. Silence.]

FLO: I can feel the rings.[*Silence.*]

CURTAIN

Harold Pinter, *LAST TO GO*

*A coffee stall. A **BARMAN** and an old **NEWSPAPER SELLER**. The **BARMAN** leans on his counter, the **OLD MAN** stands with tea.
*Silence.**

MAN: You was a bit busier earlier.

BARMAN: Ah.

MAN: Round about ten.

BARMAN: Ten, was it?

MAN: About then.

Pause.

I passed by here about then.

BARMAN: Oh yes?

MAN: I noticed you were doing a bit of trade.

Pause.

BARMAN: Yes, trade was very brisk here about ten.

MAN: Yes, I noticed.

Pause.

I sold my last one about then. Yes. About nine forty-five.

BARMAN: Sold your last then, did you?

MAN: Yes, my last "Evening News" it was. Went about twenty to ten.

Pause.

BARMAN: "Evening News", was it?

MAN: Yes.

Pause.

Sometimes it's the "Star" is the last to go.

BARMAN: Ah.

MAN: Or the . . . whasisname.

BARMAN: "Standard".

MAN: Yes.

Pause.

All I had left tonight was the "Evening News".

Pause.

BARMAN: Then that went, did it?

MAN: Yes.

Pause.

Like a shot.

Pause.

BARMAN: You didn't have any left, eh?

MAN: No. Not after I sold that one.

Pause.

BARMAN: It was after that you must have come by here then, was it?

MAN: Yes, I come by here after that, see, after I packed up.

BARMAN: You didn't stop here though, did you?

MAN: When?

BARMAN: I mean, you didn't stop here and have a cup of tea then, did you?

MAN: What, about ten?

BARMAN: Yes.

MAN: No, I went up to Victoria.

BARMAN: No, I thought I didn't see you.

MAN: I had to go up to Victoria.

Pause.

BARMAN: Yes, trade was very brisk here about then.

Pause.

MAN: I went to see if I could get hold of George.

BARMAN: Who?

MAN: George.

Pause.

BARMAN: George who?

MAN: George . . . whasisname.

BARMAN: Oh.

Pause.

Did you get hold of him?

MAN: No. No, I couldn't get hold of him. I couldn't locate him.

BARMAN: He's not about much now, is he?

Pause.

MAN: When did you last see him then?

BARMAN: Oh, I haven't seen him for years.

MAN: No, nor me.

Pause.

BARMAN: Used to suffer very bad from arthritis.

MAN: Arthritis?

BARMAN: Yes.

MAN: He never suffered from arthritis.

BARMAN: Suffered very bad.

Pause.

MAN: Not when I knew him.

Pause.

BARMAN: I think he must have left the area.

Pause.

MAN: Yes, it was the “Evening News” was the last to go tonight.

BARMAN: Not always the last though, is it, though?

MAN: No. Oh no. I mean sometimes it's the “News”. Other times it's one of the others. No way of telling beforehand. Until you've got your last one left, of course. Then you can tell which one it's going to be.

BARMAN: Yes.

Pause.

MAN: Oh yes.

Pause.

I think he must have left the area.