The Plays of Arthur Miller Syllabus

Instructor
Douglas Post

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Modality
Remote learning

Quarter: Winter
Start – end date: January 10th – February 28th
Session day/time: Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Course Code and Section: HUAS80104 24W1

Course Overview

It is said that when Death of a Salesman was first performed on Broadway, grown men wept in the aisles. Arthur Miller is arguably America’s foremost playwright as well as one of our fiercest social and political commentators. This course will explore eight of his pivotal works including All My Sons, The Crucible, A View from the Bridge, A Memory of Two Mondays, After the Fall, Incident at Vichy, The Price, and the life and times of Willy Loman.

“Every man does have a star,” states the main character of one of Miller’s plays, “The star of one's honesty. And you spend your life groping for it, but once it's out it never lights again.” From Joe Keller to John Proctor to the confessional of Quentin, Miller was obsessed with morality in all its forms, what it means to be an American, and what it means to pursue the American dream. Strongly influenced by all the great dramatists that had come before him, he put everything he had into his plays and forced our society to take a hard look at itself.

The fact that his work is still performed today speaks volumes to the classicism of his writing and the urgency of his message.

Note to students

All readings are subject to change.

Required texts


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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Arthur Miller</td>
<td><em>All My Sons</em></td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Arthur Miller</td>
<td><em>Death of a Salesman</em></td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.