Course Description
The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen is one of the major figures of world literature and a giant of nineteenth-century intellectual life. His works remain fascinating and globally relevant today. In this course we analyze the plays of Ibsen in English translation using a variety of critical approaches. Using readings in moral philosophy (e.g. utilitarianism, deontology, feminist ethics, virtue ethics), students investigate ethical issues and themes in Ibsen’s plays. We will also study Ibsen’s dramatic technique and the historical and literary contexts of his work. Prerequisite: BTS-T.

GE Attribute: Ethical Issues and Normative Perspectives (EIN)
An EIN course is an upper-level course that analyzes ethical issues from a variety of perspectives that provide norms of justice and well-being and guide moral reasoning. By the end of an EIN course students will demonstrate: a) understanding of particular normative perspectives, including a Christian one; b) the ability to see similarities and differences in the ethical reasoning of two or more normative perspectives; c) the ability to analyze current ethical issues from several normative perspectives. Explore the new EIN website at http://pages.stolaf.edu/ein/

Course Expectations
1. Attendance and active participation in discussions of various sizes.
2. Completion of all readings before the date they are listed on the syllabus.
3. Completion of all assignments, including a midterm and final essay, nine response forum postings, and two group projects.

Required Books available at the St. Olaf Bookstore

- Please make sure to get only the specified edition of the Ibsen books.

- Ibsen, *Four Major Plays* (Oxford)
- Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People; The Wild Duck; Rosmersholm* (Oxford)
- Ibsen, *Brand* (Penguin)
- Tännsjö, *Understanding Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Theory*
Other Required Readings available as PDF files on the moodle site

- Please bring the assigned reading with you to class – printed or digital.

- Elinor Fuchs, “Some Questions to Ask a Play”
- John Stuart Mill, “What Utilitarianism Is” from *Utilitarianism*
- Immanuel Kant, “Preface,” “First Section,” *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*
- James Rachels, “Does Morality Depend on Religion?” *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*
- Jean Grimshaw, “The Idea of a Female Ethic” from *A Companion to Ethics*
- Simone de Beauvoir, “Woman as Other” from *The Second Sex*
- George Bernard Shaw, “Ghosts” from *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*
- Toril Moi, “Losing Touch with the Everyday: Love and Language in *The Wild Duck*”
- Tom Eide, “Ibsen’s Ethical Method”
- August Strindberg, “Soul Murder”
- Sigmund Freud, “Some Character-Types met with in Psycho-analytic Work”
- Harold Bloom, “Critical Views on *Hedda Gabler*”
- Henrik Ibsen, “When We Dead Awaken”
- Lars Roar Langslet, “Ibsen and Munch”
- Oskari Kuusela, “Literature’s Ethical Significance” from *Key Terms in Ethics*
- George Steiner, excerpt from *The Death of Tragedy*

Moodle Site
This course has an active moodle site with a detailed schedule of readings and assignments, including a response forum in which students will sometimes present their thoughts on the readings. Make sure to check the moodle site well in advance of every class meeting. Any changes to the schedule will be made there.

Grading
- Response forum (nine postings): 20%
- Participation in class: 10% (Unexcused absences will lower your participation grade.)
- Projects (scenes and trials): 15%
- Midterm essay: 25%
- Final essay: 30%

Essays receive a letter grade; response forum postings receive a number grade out of 10.

For more detailed information about grading, read “Guidelines for Paper Evaluation” and “Guidelines for Response Forum” on the course moodle site.

Grade values for individual assignments:
A+ = 100, A = 96.5, A− = 91.5, B+ = 88.5, B = 85, B− = 81.5 C+ = 78.5, C = 75, C− = 71.5, D+ = 68.5 ... Not completed = 0.

Grading scale for course:
A = 94-100% A− = 90-93% B+ = 87-89% B = 84-86% B− = 80-83% C+ = 77-79% C = 74-76% C− = 70-73% D+ = 67-69 etc.
Academic Integrity
Students are to maintain the highest level of integrity at all times. Both in oral presentations and in written work, the words and ideas of others must be properly attributed. This includes the response forum as well as the midterm and final papers. If you are not sure how to do this, please ask. For this course we will use MLA format for citing sources. Please note that any plagiarized assignments will receive a zero.

Accommodations
If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) in the Academic Support Center. If you have already arranged accommodations through Student Accessibility Services, please have your letter submitted within the first two weeks of class. I expect you to initiate a conversation with me about the accommodations.

Books on 24-Hour Reserve at the Rølvaag Library
• Ibsen’s Women by Joan Templeton
• Henrik Ibsen and the Birth of Modernism by Toril Moi
• Time’s Disinherited Children: Childhood, Regression and Sacrifice in Ibsen by Robin Young
• Ibsen and Meaning by James MacFarlane
• The Ibsen Cycle: The Design of the Plays from Pillars of Society to When We Dead Awaken by Brian Johnston
• Henrik Ibsen edited by Harold Bloom
• Henrik Ibsen: a New Biography by Robert Ferguson
• Ibsen by Michael Meyer

Cate Blanchett as Hedda Gabler, Sydney Theatre Company, 2004
Course Calendar

- Readings and assignments are listed on moodle. Make sure to check the moodle site well in advance of each class meeting.

Feb. 11: First day of class.
Feb. 13: Brand
Feb. 18: Brand
Feb. 20: Utilitarianism
Feb. 25: Kantian Ethics
Feb. 27: Virtue Ethics and Christian Ethics

March 4: A Doll’s House
March 6: Feminist ethics
March 11: Ghosts
March 13: Work on scene projects – Professor Krouk is out of town at a conference.
March 18: Scene performances and discussions
March 20: Scene performances and discussions
* Midterm essays due by March 21.

Spring Break
April 1: An Enemy of the People
April 3: An Enemy of the People
April 8: The Wild Duck
April 10: Readings on The Wild Duck
April 15: Rosmersholm
April 17: Readings related to Rosmersholm
April 22: Hedda Gabler
April 24: Work on trial projects.
April 29: Trial projects. Meet in Viking Theater.
May 1: Trial projects. Meet in Viking Theater.
May 6: When We Dead Awaken
May 8: Ibsen and Edvard Munch
May 13: Final day.
* Final papers due by 11:00am on Saturday, May 17