Naturalism & the Modern Theatre

Introduction to Theatre

THTRE 270
Naturalism & the Modern Theatre

I. Modern Theatre (1870 - )

II. Characteristics

A. New Themes, Perspectives:
   1. Political
   2. Psychological
   3. Sociological
   4. Skepticism, Irony
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III. Cultural Background
   A. Scientific Method
      1. Cause & Effect
      2. Determinism
   B. Paradigm Shift
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C. Major Writers, Works
   1. Ernest Renan, Life of Jesus (1863)
   2. Friedrich Nietzsche, Thus Spake Zarathustra (1887)
   3. Charles Darwin, Origin of Species (1859)
   4. Karl Marx, Das Kapital (1867)
   5. Sigmund Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams (1900)

D. Social Factors
   1. Industrial Revolution
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IV. Major Modern Themes:
   A. Isolation, Fragmentation, Alienation

V. “Naturalism in the Theatre” (1881): Emile Zola
   A. Attack on Contemporary Theatre
   B. Attacked old Paradigms
   C. Called for “Scientific Theatre”
   D. Style: “Slice of Life”
The End

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