# Seminar 1: Intro

Good presentation style:

* Main ideas in slides
* Eye contact
* Clear voice
* Visual material
* Audience participation (questions, ideas)
* Appropriate length
* Pace
* Entertaining
* Others
  + Concise (accurate timing)
  + Personal

# Seminar 2: Early Modern Theatre as a Turning Point

“The history of theatre is a history of intermittent bursts of energy”

Posh – play about Cameron, Johnson

# Seminar 3: Social Change, Censorship and Free Expression

Main causes of social change:

* Biological (evolution, etc)
* Environmental (climate, etc)
* Technological
* Population
* Cultural (theatre!)

Social change – Kuhnism

* Kuhn Cycle
  + Normal science
  + Model drift
  + Model Crisis
  + lRevolution
  + Paradigm Shift

Cheviot, …

The Pure, the Dead and the Brilliant

* Exaggerated and mythical Scotland
* 3 fairies try to gain a yes vote from the audience
* The villain Black Donald represents the no vote
* Author Alan Bissett
  + Uses Scots dialect
  + Ex-Glasgow Uni Creative Writing tutor
* Audience reaction
  + Different laughter towards different jokes
  + Interactive elements for audience allows them to feel involved and invested

# Seminar 4: The Balcony

Political context:

* Play published in 1956, after WWII: commodification, American values
* The French Fourth Republic (1946-1958)

Cultural / Social Context:

* Existentialism: Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus
* Absurdism: Samuel Beckett for theatre
* Surrealism / Theatre of Cruelty: Antonin Artaud

Historical significance:

* Using archetypes to be applicable to different historical periods and contexts

Political significance:

* 50s: new wave of European theatre, giving representation to marginalised groups (often mirroring authors’ social background and political views)
* Genet wrote play in jail => the brothel as a closed space, country/establishment as a prison/closed system
* Revolution against state
* ‘The Balcony calls into question the enduring myths of class power and revolution in the west
* ‘house of illusions’ – perceived power
* The politics of The Balcony are concerned with image and appearance rather than sth real