Early Modern Theatre History
Romanticism - movement against neo-classicism, emphasis on emotion and imagination
Melodrama - highly dramatic, over performed style of theatre
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxzz31ww4M4

Crash Course Theatre History: Melodrama
4 basic foundations of romanticism

1. There is a higher truth
2. All creation has a common origin
3. Human existence is divided into two parts, body and soul
4. Artists are regarded as having superior knowledge
Realism movement against romanticism, represent truth and reality on stage, no symbolism
Henrik Ibsen  father of modern drama, realistic playwright
Constantin Stanislavski- Russian actor, father of realism in acting, developed system for actor training
Three Non Artistic Influences to Realism

Charles Darwin—author of *Origin of the Species*, suggested idea of natural selection
Three Non Artistic Influences to Realism

Sigmund Freud—psychologist, analyzed the human mind, studied motivation of human behavior
Three Non Artistic Influences to Realism

Karl Marx- published *Communist Manifesto*, suggested collective ownership of property work towards the common good of all the people.
Expressionism - artistic movement against realism, emphasized expression of the artist's inner experiences
August Strindberg - expressionist playwright
Crash Course Theatre History
Expressionism (watch through 4:00)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B99H6Ygnzgw
**Surrealism** - artistic movement expressing the workings of the subconscious.
Jean Cocteau - surrealist playwright
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B99H6Ygnzgw

Video of Surrealist Play, through about 4:00
Theatre of Cruelty - movement to remove barrier between stage and audience, assault the audience’s senses
Antonin Artaud created theatre of cruelty
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqWhwIDiLY8

Video of Theatre of Cruelty Performance, First few minutes
Epic Theatre - movement that appealed to reason, not emotion, and tried to influence social change
Bertolt Brecht- creator of Epic Theatre
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7fqMPDcKXM
Crash Course Theatre History, Epic Theatre, through about 4:00
Absurdism- movement stating that humans exist in a meaningless, irrational universe
Samuel Beckett: Absurdist playwright
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUXtzkLTA9I

Broadway Waiting for Godot trailer
American Theatre and Race

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3K9uKIMob0

Crash Course Theatre History, Race Melodrama and Minstrel Show
Ira Aldridge- African American actor, discriminated against in America, first celebrated black actor in Europe
Jump Jim Crow—song and dance from early 1800’s, performed in blackface
African Grove- NY theatre founded and operated by African American Artists
Uncle Tom’s Cabin - Influential Book in the Abolitionist Movement, also turned into a play.
Women in Theatre
Sarah Bernhardt - French performer, most famous actress of the 19th century
Silent Film footage of Bernhardt
Charlotte Cushman - American actress, most famous for performing as Romeo opposite her younger sister.
Ellen Terry - British actress, first female performer to be knighted as a Dame.
Lotta Crabtree- American actress, singer, dancer, and comedian, became known as ‘The Nation’s Darling’