

Posthuman Beckett
English 9169B
Winter 2019

The course analyzes the short prose that Samuel Beckett produced prior to and after his monumental *The Unnamable*

subject: *The Unnamable* is narrated by a subject without a fully-realized body, who inhabits no identifiable space or time, who is, perhaps, dead. In his short prose Beckett continues his exploration of the idea of the *posthuman subject*: the subject who is beyond the category of the human (the human understood as embodied, as historically and spatially located, as possessing some degree of subjective continuity). What we find in the short prose (our analysis begins with three stories Beckett produced in 1945-6: *The Expelled*, *The Calmative*, *The End*) is *beyond* the human: we will encounter characters who can claim to be dead (*The Calmative*, *Texts for Nothing*)

Fizzles

Texts for Nothing

---. *Nohow On. Company. Ill Seen Ill Said, Worstward Ho.* New York: Grove, 1996.

Schedule:

January

10 Introduction

17 *Texts for Nothing*

24 *Texts for Nothing*

31 *All Strange Away/Imagination Dead Imagine*

February

Essays: All sources must be documented according to the MLA Handbook. Students are assumed