

## **Stamina, Talent, and Good Luck: Tennessee Williams before 1950**

### **Course Description**

We will discuss playwright Tennessee Williams' early life and career. What did he do and write before 1945 that sheds light on his first two triumphs, *The Glass Menagerie* (1945) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)?

### **Weekly Layout:**

Family and College. "Man in the Overstuffed Chair" and "Grand" in *New Selected Essays*; also several letters to his parents

Was Williams a "starving artist"? Hampel, "How Did Tennessee Williams survive from 1939 to 1944?"

Williams in Hollywood (1943). Excerpts from his letters to [best friend] Donald Windham

Williams' first Broadway Success (1945) *The Glass Menagerie*

Williams' Second Triumph (1947/48). *A Streetcar Named Desire*