

Zarqa University

Faculty of Arts
Department: English language and
Literature: M.A. in English Literature
Course Title: Modern Trends in Drama



Course Description:

Drama is one of the oldest forms of cultural expression, an art whose practices vary across time and place. It is a literary composition, performed by professional actors on stage (or theatre), before an audience. It involves conflicts, actions and particular themes. Eye-catching makeup, facial expressions and body language of the artists are prominent features of a live performance. Although the art form exists in different countries, drama in England deserves special mention, because some of the legendary dramatists, including William Shakespeare, are associated with it. The course focuses on movements in modern drama such Dadaism, Surrealism, the absurd theatre...etc. The course also intends to make intensive analyses of selected works of famous dramatists, representing these innovative trends in Modern Drama. The present course aims to enhance the M.A. students' critical abilities through providing them with broad guidelines for further exploration in the field of studying Modern Drama.

Aims of the course:

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- 1-Illustrate necessary knowledge about the historical and cultural formation of Modern Drama.
- 2-Demonstrate basic knowledge of the texts, periods, and genres covered in class.
- 3-Identify and apply major theoretical and historical theatre concepts.
- 4-Support all stages in writing research papers related to theatre history and texts.
- 5- Appreciate representative works in British and American drama.
- 6- Supervision in all areas of critical-creative writing.

Intended Learning Outcome (ILOs):

A. Knowledge and Understanding :

A1. Knowledge of the historical and cultural bases of Modern Drama.

A11. Understand the diversity of movements and techniques in Modern Drama.

A 111. Analyses of major representative plays within the sociopolitical and aesthetic contexts.

A2. Contemporary Trends, Problems and Research :

Comprehending the importance of modern drama and its interaction/relation with other literary genres.

A3. Professional Responsibility:

A3.1. Read, interpret and analyze selected masterpieces from contemporary British and American drama.

A3.1.1. Essay feedback and discussions.

B: Subject-specific skills

B1. Developing the skill of critically evaluating advanced texts in Modern Drama.

B1.1. Writing research paper.

B1.1.1. Presentations and seminars.

Critical-Thinking Skills

C1. Analytic skills: Assess the value and importance of modern drama in mirroring the age and its interaction/Impact on other 20th century literary movements and genres .

C1.1. The importance of making a value judgments about advanced dramatic texts.

C1.1.1. Share in classroom debates ,lectures and seminars .

C2. Strategic Thinking: Formulate methods designed to obtain the maximum benefits from the course.

C3. Creative thinking and innovation:

C3.1. Devise innovative thinking about improving knowledge of learning a wide variety of literary terms , movements and techniques related to the study of Modern Drama .

C3.1.1. Enhance methods of interpretations and making value judgments of Modern Dramatic texts .

D. General and Transferable Skills (other skills relevant to employability and personal development)

D1. Communication: Effectively involve in the field of learning/teaching modern drama.

D1.1. Teamwork and Leadership: Fostering an ability to engage in group work in the classroom or making individual attempts as leaders to develop skills motivating others to accomplish outstanding goals in the field of modern drama and literature.

Course structures:

Week	Credit Hours	ILOs	Topics	Teaching Procedure	Assessment methods
1	3	A1	Introduction; related movements in modern drama such Dadaism, Surrealism, the absurd theatre...etc.	lecture	Attendance ; Participation
2,3		A,B,C,D	Shaw's Pygmalion and the Drama of Language and myth	Seminar, presentation ; discussion	Attendance ; Participation
4,5		A,B,C,D	Oscar Wilde. <i>The importance of Being Earnest</i> ; a farcical comedy	Seminar presentation ; discussion	Attendance ; Participation
6,7	3	A,B,C,D	Henrik Ibsen. <i>The Wild Duck</i> . a pragmatic, anti-romantic drama; militant idealism	Seminar, presentation ; discussion	Quiz
8	3	A,B,C,D	Edward Albee. <i>The Sandbox</i> . Americanization of the Theatre of the Absurd	Seminar , presentation ; discussion	Attendance; Participation
9	3	A,B,C,D	Strindberg. <i>Miss Julie</i> . a naturalistic play	Seminar, presentation ; discussion	Attendance; Participation
10	3	A,B,C,D	Arthur Miller . <i>Death of a Salesman</i> ; the American Dream	Seminar, presentation ; discussion	Mid-Exam
11	3	A,B,C,D	Samuel Beckett. <i>Waiting for Godot</i> ; an absurdist play	Seminar , presentation ; discussion	Attendance ; Participation
12,13	3	A,B,C,D	T. S. Eliot. <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> . Poetic drama in two parts	Lecture, discussion	Presentation of Term Paper

References:

A. Main Textbook:

- 1-G.B. Shaw . *Pygmalion*
- 2-Oscar Wilde. *The importance of Being Earnest*
- 3-Henrik Ibsen . *The Wild Duck*.
- 4-August Strindberg. *Miss Julie*.
- 5-Arthur Miller . *Death of a Salesman*.
- 6-Samuel Beckett. *Waiting for Godot*
- 7-Edward Albee . *The Sandbox*
- 8-T. S. Eliot. *Murder in the Cathedral*.

A. Supplementary Textbook(s):

1-Fergusson, Francis. 1949. *The Idea of a Theater: A Study of Ten Plays, The Art of Drama in a Changing Perspective*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton UP, 1968. ISBN 0-691-01288-1.

2-Edward Wilson , Alvin Goldfrad .*Living Theatre : A History* . New York : McGraw -Hill ,1994.

3-Jean Chothia . *English Drama of The Early Modern Period 1890-1940*.New York : Longman, 1996.

4- drama, Western: Twentieth- Century Drama -...

<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/entertainment/drama-western-twentieth-century-drama.html>

5- Watt, Stephen and Gary A. Richardson, eds. *American Drama: Colonial to Contemporary*. Boston: Thompson, 2003.

6- Jacobus, Lee A. *The Bedford Introduction to Drama*. 5th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2005.

7- Asher, Kenneth T. *S. Eliot and Ideology* (1995).

8- History of Drama: Dramatic Movements and Time...

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/history-of-drama-dramatic-movements-and-time-periods.html>

Assessment Methods:

Methods	Grade	Date
Mid- Exam	25	20/12/2015
Term Paper	15	5/1/2015
Attendance , presentation and participation	20	
Final Exam	40	