



Department of English and Humanities ENG114: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH DRAMA



What is drama but life with the dull bits cut out.

— Alfred Hitchcock

Semester	Summer 2024
Schedule	Mon/Wed: 08:00am-09:20am
Room number	08B-07C
Google Classroom	riydmjj
Instructor:	Samirah Tabassum
Office:	ENH, 5th Floor
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Office Hours:	Mon/Wed: 11:15am-12:15pm, Email for online consultation

I. Rationale:

The study of literature allows one to investigate the ways in which literary culture has engaged with and shaped society and continues to do so even today. This literature course explores many aspects of culture, performance and society.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Introduction to English Drama is a historical overview of the development of drama and social environment for interpretation. This course will concentrate on critical reading and analysis of dramatic literature. The course offers analysis of drama, fundamentals of drama and dramatic forms. We will read a variety of dramatic literature, spanning the centuries from the ancient Greek theatre to modern times.

Aims

The primary objective is to explore the practice, history and theory of western drama in a range of contexts and settings.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to understand and appreciate dramatic literature and to learn to think critically.

III. Format and Procedures: Lecture, Discussion, Writing, Presentations

Lectures followed by class discussion emphasize the utility of collaborative learning. Writing assignments and presentations will be integral parts of the student's evaluation. We will look at writing as a process of thinking and as a useful means of refining one's appreciation of a literary work. Assignments will allow students to work out more carefully and fully what they think about literary works. In-class discussion should serve as a springboard for students' own thinking about literature. It is expected that students would go beyond class discussion in their writing and the success with essays will depend to a great extent on how perceptively and intelligently one has developed his/her own ideas.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance and Participation Policy: Because this course emphasizes class-discussion, reading and writing as processes and as collaborative activities, attendance is essential. Absent students will be responsible for finding out what material was covered and what assignments were given. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, please let me know-especially on days when an assignment is due.
2. Make-up examinations will only be allowed to the students with extreme medical condition OR death in the immediate family during the semester.

3. Course Readings:

(a) Required Texts:

1. Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex* (429 BCE)
2. Aristotle. *Poetics* (335 BCE)
3. Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus* (1592)
4. Shakespeare, William, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1595)
5. Osborne, John. *Look Back in Anger* (1956)

(b) Supplementary Reading List:

1. *The Theory of Drama*, 1999, Nicoll, Radha Press, Delhi.
2. *The Birth of Tragedy* by Friedrich Nietzsche
3. *Forms and Meaning in Drama*, 1960, Kitto, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London.
4. *Oxford Reading in Greek Tragedy*, 1982, Eds. by Segal, OUP.
5. A.C.Bradley: *Shakespearean Tragedy*
6. *British Drama*, Nicoll, Radha Press, Delhi.
7. *The Technique of the Drama (Die Technik des Dramas)* by Gustav Freytag
8. *The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*, Vol.1, Ed. G.H. Cody, Evert Sprinchorn.

9. Highet, Gilbert. *The Classical Tradition: Greek and Roman Influences on Western Literature*. Oxford University Press. Amazon.com.
<https://books.google.com.bd/books?hl=en&lr=&id=KRbBTcM9M2oC&oi=fnd&pg>
10. Miller, Arthur. "Tragedy and the Common Man"

V. Grading Procedures: Marks will be divided between class tests, written assignment and class presentations. This does not include the mid-term and final examinations. Students are requested to look carefully at the grading system.

(a) Attendance & Class participation	05
(b) Quiz/test	10
(c) PPT Presentation	10
(d) Assignment	10
(e) Mid-term	20
(f) Alternative Assessment (Performance)	15
(g) Final Examination	30
Total	100

VI. Academic Integrity:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the BRAC University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. [*Optional: For this course, collaboration is allowed in the following instances: PowerPoint Presentations, Dramatic Performances and any other group work assigned by the teacher.*]

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Do not hesitate to consult with me if you are unsure of whether or not a specific instance in your writing would constitute plagiarism. Any paper that has been plagiarized will receive a zero for the assignment. During an open book examination, notes in the textbooks should be stapled off. Otherwise it will be treated as cheating material.

Also refer to plagiarism policy that will be on the web.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

If copying occurs, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

VII. Accommodations for students with disabilities

I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three

weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

VIII. Tentative Course Schedule

Class Number	Topics to be Discussed
Class 1	Introduction to the Course Theory of Drama: A Survey
Class 2	Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> Forms of Drama, Greek Drama Vocabulary, Tragedy, Tragic Hero
Class 3	Sophocles: An Introduction, <i>Oedipus Rex</i>
Class 4	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> Tragic Hero, Hamartia, Anagnorisis, Peripeteia
Class 5	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> Tragic Hero, Chorus, Concluding discussion
Class 6	Written Quiz <i>Poetics, Oedipus Rex</i> - 10 marks
Class 7	Christopher Marlowe: An Introduction to <i>Doctor Faustus</i>
Class 8	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> Morality Plays and Renaissance Tragedy
Class 9	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> Characterization, Themes, Overall discussion
Class 10	Shakespearean Comedy William Shakespeare. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
Class 11	Review

Class 12	Midterm Exams-20 marks
Class 13	Shakespearean Comedy William Shakespeare. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
Class 14	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Setting, Characterization
Class 15	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Overall discussion
Class 16	PRESENTATION - 10 marks
Class 17	PRESENTATION - 10 marks
Class 18	Osborne's play <i>Look Back in Anger</i> Introduction
Class 19	<i>Look Back in Anger</i> Characterization, Themes
Class 20	<i>Look Back in Anger</i> Overall discussion
Class 21	Final Review
Class 22	Alternative assessment preparation
Class 23	Alternative Assessment - 15 marks DRAMA PERFORMANCE
FINAL	Final Exams-30 marks