

17th to 20th Century Drama
BA in English Literature
Alzahra University

Instructor: Dr. M. Hoorvash

Semester: 98-1 (Fall 2019)

<http://staff.alzahra.ac.ir/hoorvash/en>

Objectives:

- The students become familiar with the circumstances of the closing of the theaters in the commonwealth period and their re-opening in the 18th century.
- The students read about the drama of the 19th century and its relationship with the later theater movements.
- The students learn about the historical and literary contexts surrounding the Modern drama. They will also become familiar with the contemporary drama.
- The students read the selected plays and engage in in-depth analysis of them.
- Dramatic readings and role playing are used to make students familiar with the nature of drama as opposed to other literary genres.
- Glimpses to certain theoretical frameworks are provided for the students to help them come to different readings of a single play.
- The main goal of the course is to improve the students' critical understanding of literature and life in general through reading and discussing plays.

Reading:

Primary

1. *She Stoops to Conquer*- Oliver Goldsmith
2. *The Importance of Being Ernest*- Oscar Wilde
3. *Blood Wedding*- Federico Garcia Lorca
4. *Death of a Salesman*- Arthur Miller
5. *Our Town*- Thornton Wilder
6. *Disgraced*- Ayad Akhtar

The students should watch a movie adaptation or the film of a theater production of the following plays:

1. *Prometheus Unbound*- Percy Bysshe Shelly
2. *Mother Courage and Her Children*- Bertolt Brecht
3. *Waiting for Godot*- Samuel Beckett
4. *Doubt*- John Patrick Shanely

Secondary

Abjadian, Amrollah. *A Surevy of English Literature (II)*. Tehran: SAMT, 2014.

Also, the students are supposed to use the secondary reading materials available to them through the Dropbox link I send them at the beginning of the semester.

Evaluation:

Class activity (participation, preparation, assignments, etc.): 30%

Final exam: 70%

Bonus: 0.25 to one extra point will be awarded to students who provide written reports of the staged plays they watch during the semester.

Syllabus:

week	date	Topic	Reading
1	98/6/23	Introduction to the course	
2	98/6/30	Drama from the beginning to 17 th century	
3	98/7/6	Restoration Drama	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> Abjadian: Ch. 1, "The spirit of Restoration", Ch. 5, "Restoration Drama"
4	98/7/13	18 th century and the age of reason	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> Abjadian: Ch. 9, "The Augustan Age", Ch. 14, "Drama to 1800"
5	98/7/20	Romantic drama	<i>Prometheus Unbound (film)</i>
6	98/7/27	holiday	
7	98/8/4	Victorian Drama	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>
8	98/8/11	Modernism and epic drama	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children (film)</i> Abjadian: Ch. 35 "Background to the 20 th century literature"
9	98/8/18	Poetic drama and surrealism	<i>Blood Wedding</i>
10	98/8/25	Social drama	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
11	98/9/2		<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
12	98/9/9	20 th century drama movements	<i>Waiting for Godot (film)</i> Abjadian: Ch. 42, "Modern English Drama"
13	98/9/16	Postmodern drama	<i>Our Town</i>
14	98/9/23	Contemporary drama	<i>Doubt (film)</i>
15	98/9/30	Post 9/11 drama	<i>Disgraced</i>
16	98/10/7	conclusion	<i>Disgraced</i>