

Contemporary Drama

MA in English Literature

Alzahra University

Instructor: Dr. M. Hoorvash

Semester: 98-1 (Fall 2019)

Contact: mona.hoorvash@gmail.com

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

Objectives:

- The students learn about the historical and literary contexts surrounding the drama of the past 70 years.
- The students read the selected plays and engage in in-depth analysis of them. They will become familiar with the critical heritage as well as the recent studies regarding these plays.
- The students practice the critical evaluation of other critics' writings with regard to the plays.

Requirements:

- The students are supposed to read each play before the class and make a list of topics to be critically analyzed regarding that play.
- The students are supposed to find and study a scholarly article, a book or a dissertation on the given play and be prepared to explain it in the class.
- The students are required to submit a reaction paper each session; this can be an essay written on one of their critical topics or a review of the article/book/dissertation they have read. The length of the paper should be 400-600 words. The papers should be uploaded on the Notion work space assigned to this class before each session.
- The students are responsible for making sure their writings do not contain any instances of plagiarism. Any form of academic misconduct will have serious consequences.

Evaluation:

- Class Activity: 30%
- Assignments: 40%
- Final Exam: 30%

Bonus: 0.25 to one extra point will be awarded to students who provide written reports of the staged plays they watch or the literary events they attended during the semester. The reports will be uploaded on a weblog.

Reading:

Death of a Salesman (1949), Arthur Miller
A Streetcar Named Desire (1947), Tennessee Williams
Look Back in Anger (1956), John Osborne
Long Day's Journey into Night (1956), Eugene O'Neill
Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe? (1962), Edward Albee
Top Girls (1982), Caryl Churchill
Glengarry Glen Ross (1983), David Mamet
Fences (1985), August Wilson
Blasted (1995), Sarah Kane
Topdog/underdog (2001), Suzan-Lori Parks
The Pillowman (2003), Martin McDonagh
Elmina's Kitchen (2003), Kwami Kwei-Armah
God of Hell (2004), Sam Shepard
This House (2012), James Graham
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (2012), Simon Stephens
Disgraced (2012), Ayad Akhtar

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.

Weekly Plan:

	date	The Play
Week 1	98/7/1	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
Week 2	98/7/8	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Week 3	98/7/15	<i>Look Back in Anger</i>
Week 4	98/7/22	<i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>
Week 5	98/7/29	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?</i>
Week 6	98/8/6	<i>Top Girls</i>
Week 7	98/8/13	<i>Glengarry Glen Ross</i>
Week 8	98/8/20	<i>Fences</i>
Week 9	98/8/27	<i>Blasted</i>
Week 10	98/9/4	<i>Topdog/underdog</i>
Week 11	98/9/11	<i>The Pillowman</i>
Week 12	98/9/18	<i>God of Hell</i>
Week 13	98/9/25	<i>This House</i>
Week 14	98/10/2	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>
Week 15	98/10/9	<i>Disgraced</i>
Week 16	Make-up session	<i>Elmina's Kitchen</i>