

# Classical and Renaissance Drama

BA in English Literature

Alzahra University

Instructor: Dr. M. Hoorvash

Semester: 97-2 (2018-2019)

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

## Objectives:

- The students become familiar with the beginning of drama and the early theories of drama.
- The students learn about the historical and literary contexts surrounding the Renaissance 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:

- 1- *Oedipus Rex*- Sophocles
- 2- *Medea*- Euripides
- 3- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*- William Shakespeare
- 4- *Macbeth*- William Shakespeare
- 5- *Volpone*- Ben Jonson

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

**Syllabus:**

<b>week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>The Novel</b>
1	Introduction to the course	
2	Origins of drama	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>
3	Aristotelian tragedy	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>
4	Mythologies surrounding Medea	<i>Medea</i>
5	Women in Greek tragedy	<i>Medea</i>
6	Roman dramatic forms	<i>Medea</i>
7	Drama in the middle ages and early Renaissance	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
8	Elizabethan drama	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
9	Comedy	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
10	Shakespearean tragedies	<i>Macbeth</i>
11	Language of the play	<i>Macbeth</i>
12	Adaptations	<i>Macbeth</i>
13	Other Renaissance dramatists	<i>Volpone</i>
14	Comedy of humor	<i>Volpone</i>
15	Towards the Age of Reason	<i>Volpone</i>
16	Conclusion	