

KIBABII UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE

Course code: LIT 316

Course Title: European and American Drama

Broad Objective: Learners to demonstrate comprehension of the developments in **Drama** right from the classical times to the present day European and American Drama.

Course Objectives:

- I) Learners to demonstrate their understanding of drama as a universal and philosophical mode of **transmitting definitions** and **understandings of culture and knowledge** from one age to another.
- II) Students to appreciate the fact that drama, like any other genre of literature, has the power to construct worldviews and ideologies.
- III) Learners to appreciate the reality that life in itself is drama and drama is life.

Expected learning Outcome:

Students to demonstrate their understanding on:

- The theatrical/dramatic devices invented and used by the classical playwrights such as: Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.
- Thematic concerns of the classical Drama, Elizabethan, European, and American Drama.
- The relevance of the classical drama to the contemporary society.
- The general influence of the classical Drama on the European and American Drama.

Course Outline: Topics

1. Introduction: The Socio-political dynamics/background surrounding the production of classical plays/drama – Aeschylus, Sophocles & Euripides.-Texts: **Antigone, Oedipus the King & Electra** (Week I &2)
2. Dramaturgical inventions/Theatrical devices invented by classical dramatists – **Antigone, Oedipus the King & Electra** (Week 3)
3. Representation of society within the classical times I – **Prometheus, Antigone, Oedipus the King & Electra** (Week 4)
4. Representation of society within the classical times II – **Antigone & Electra** (Week 5)
5. Developments in Drama during the Elizabethan times.- **Merchant of Venice** (Week 6)

6. Politics of Anti-Semitism and the question of sectarianism, puritanism and self-righteousness – Introduction to the politics of racial jingoism and religious bigotry towards the Jewish community – **Merchant of Venice** (Week 6 &7)
7. Anti-Semitism sentiments of Elizabethan times – **Merchant of Venice** (Week 8)
8. Developments in theatre in European Drama-**An Enemy of the People** (Week 9)
9. The ailing society of Elizabethan times. **Ibsen & Bertolt Brecht** (Week 10)
10. Loopholes of democracy and socialist Europe – **Ibsen & Brecht** (Week 11)
11. Representation of dramatic conflict – **A Raisin in the Sun** (Week 12&13)
12. Recaps and general revision. A recap of all texts (Week 14)
13. **Week 15 &16 – revision and Exams.**

Methodology: Lectures & group presentations

Course Assessment:

Grading

1 st Continuous Assessment Test	10%	70% and above	-	A
2 nd Continuous Assessment Test	10%	60 -69	-	B
Assignment	10%	50 -59	-	C
Final Examination	70%	40 -49	-	D
Total	100%	Below 40	-	E

References

- **Prometheus** and other plays. – *Aeschylus* A new translation by Phillip Vallacott – Penguin Classics.
- **Antigone** }
- **Oedipus the King** } *Sophocles*. Translated by H.D.F. KITTO (O.U.P)
- **Electra** }
- **The Merchant of Venice** }
- **King Lear** } *William Shakespeare*
- **The Caucasian Chalk Circle** } *Bertolt Brecht*
- **An Enemy of the People** } *Henrik Ibsen*
- **A Raisin in the Sun** } *Hansberry*

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