

King Faisal University
College of Arts
Department of English Language
Academic Plan: Course Description

1- Course identification

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| Department | Department of English Language | | Level | 7 |
| Course title | Modern Drama | | Code | 486 |
| Course | Theoretical <input type="checkbox"/> | Practical <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Domain | Literature | | Prerequisite(s) | |
| Credit hours | 2 | Contact | 2 | ADEL 280 Eng. Lit. (Renaissance) |

2- Course content

This course examines Western drama ,from the middle of the nineteenth century through the Second World War, which aspired to new levels of theatrical and social realism and then experimented with piercing the boundaries of the realism it had achieved. It is a study of mainly European and British modern and avant-garde drama in the period from Ibsen to the present, including a close reading and analysis of a selection from the following playwrights and the dramatic schools they represent: Ibsen, Chekhov ,Yeats, Syng, Eliot, Beckett & Osborne.

3- Course rationale

Previous literary courses in Renaissance and Seventeenth Century have introduced students to the genre and early contributors to the sub-genres. The present course allows students to cover the modern and avant-garde schools and to develop their analytical and critical skills.

4- Course objectives

The objectives of this course are to explore modern and avant-garde British and Western Drama and to place theatre practice within its cultural context.

To develop analytical and critical skills.

To help students majoring in English to find opportunities in a wide spectrum of careers : media, journalism, teaching, as well as further postgraduate study to MA and Ph.D. levels.

5- Teaching methods

Weekly two hour classes will include a formal lecture followed by reading, text analysis and discussions .

Short seminar papers are presented by students with the help of powerpoint .

Prescribed texts are read and their problems and challenges tested.

6- Course evaluation

Continuous assessment is the main method of evaluation. The following instruments are utilized:

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| 1- Attendance | 10% |
| 2- Class Quizzes and assignment | 10% |
| 3- Term paper | 10% |
| 4- Midterm Exam | 20% |
| 5- Final Exam | 50% |

7- References and teaching learning resources

Three of the following prescribed texts :

Henrik Ibsen :
The Wild Duck
G.B. Shaw :Pygmalion
W.B. Yeats: At the Hawk's Well
J.M. Synge :Riders to the Sea
T.S. Eliot :The Family Reunion
Samuel Beckett :Endgame

References:

- 1- J.,L. Styan, *Modern Drama in Theory & Practice:1-Realism and Naturalism, Symbolism, Surrealism and the Absurd, 3- Expressionism and Epic Theatre*, Cambridge Univ. Press,1983.
- 2- Adrian Page (ed.), *The Death of the Playwright? Modern British Drama & Literary Theory*, Macmillan 1992.