

Institute of Humanities & Arts
ADP English

Classical and Elizabethan Drama

Course Code: ENGL-2108

Credit Hours: 3

Rationale:

This course will acquaint the students with the history of dramatic composition, basic components of drama and its difference from other genres of literature.

Objectives

- ☐ To provide an insight into the socio-historic conditions of the Classical and the Elizabethan era
- ☐ To make the students familiar with the elementary features of the Greek and Elizabethan drama
- ☐ To acquaint them with the spirit of Renaissance
- ☐ To introduce the students to Shakespearean tragedy and comedy

Course Outline

UNIT 1

- ☐ *Oedipus Rex*: its detailed study with critical analysis
- ☐ Introduction to Classical Theatre and classical forms of drama
- ☐ Basic features of Shakespearean tragedy and comedy

UNIT 2

- ☐ Tragic Hero- Hamartia
- ☐ Catharsis
- ☐ Role of Chorus
- ☐ Role of fate/gods
- ☐ Denouement-the tragic downfall

UNIT 3

- ☐ *Dr. Faustus* :its detailed reading with critical analysis
- ☐ Introduction to Elizabethan era and Renaissance
Introduction to Christopher Marlowe's life and plays
Impact of Medieval Drama on Doctor Faustus

The character of Doctor Faustus as a product of Renaissance

UNIT 4

Marlowe's Blank Verse

- Significance of the subplot
- Main themes
- Is Doctor Faustus a Christian or a pagan play?

UNIT 5

Hamlet: its detailed reading with critical analysis

Shakespearean Tragedy : its characteristics

- Shakespearean heroes
- Influence of Revenge tragedies on *Hamlet*

UNIT 6

- Theological (Christian) concerns in *Hamlet*
- *Hamlet*'s soliloquies
- *Hamlet*'s Psychoanalysis in the light of Oedipus Complex
- *Hamlet*: A feminist Perspective
- Significance of Comic Relief and "Play" within the play

UNIT 7

- Twelfth Night: its detailed reading with critical analysis
- Shakespearean Comedy : its characteristics Note: Do any four (max)

Recommended Reading

1. Kitto, H.D.F. *Form and meaning in Drama*. London: Methuen University Paperbacks, 1960.
 2. Ferguson, Francis. *The Idea of Theater*. New York: Double Day and Company, Inc., 1955.
 3. Poirier, Michel. *Christopher Marlowe*. London: Chatto&Windus, 1951.
 4. Charlton, H.B. *Shakespearean Comedy*. Cambridge: University Press, 1949.
 5. Bradley, A.C. *Shakespearean Tragedy*. London: Macmillan, 1985. Wilson, Dover. *What Happens in Hamlet?* Cambridge: University Press, 1951
- History of English Literature

