

**Institute of English Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University of the Punjab, Lahore.
Course Outline**



Programme	BS English Literature	Course Code	ELL-301	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Twentieth Century British Literature: Poetry and Drama				
Course Introduction					
This course offers a comprehensive exploration of significant shifts in British Literature during the 20th century. Spanning the rise of High Modernism to radical experiments of Post-War and Absurdist theatre, the syllabus examines how poets and playwrights responded to global conflict, the loss of traditional values, and the fragmentation of the modern psyche. Students will engage with the symbolic complexities of Yeats, the mythic innovations of Eliot, and the existentialist landscapes of Beckett and Pinter. By bridging the gap between the lyrical and the dramatic, the course analyzes how language was reinvented to articulate the "unutterable" realities of the contemporary human condition..					
Learning Outcomes					
1. Analyze the formal and thematic characteristics of Modernism, including fragmentation, stream of consciousness, and the mythic method. 2. Evaluate the evolution of 20th-century British poetry from the aesthetic symbolism of Yeats to the visceral, nature-oriented imagery of Ted Hughes. 3. Critique the dramatic techniques of the "Theatre of the Absurd" and "Comedy of Menace," specifically the use of silence, pause, and non-linear structure. 4. Connect literary texts to their socio-political contexts, such as the World Wars, the Irish struggle for independence, and post-colonial shifts. 5. Develop advanced skills in close reading and comparative analysis through academic essays and dramatic presentations.					
Course Content			Assignments/Readings		
Week 1	Introduction to Twentieth Century Literature: Modernism, War, and Fragmentation		Revise Modernism		
Week 2	W.B. Yeats: <i>Byzantium</i>				
Week 3	W.B. Yeats: <i>Dialogue of Self and Soul</i>				
Week 4	T.S. Eliot: <i>The Wasteland</i> (Part I & II)		Assignment 1		
Week 5	T.S. Eliot: <i>The Wasteland</i> (Part III, IV, & V)				
Week 6	W.H. Auden: <i>Partition</i>				
Week 7	Ted Hughes: <i>The Thought Fox</i> and <i>Horses</i>				
Week 8	Mid Term Examinations				
Week 9	Introduction to Twentieth Century Drama: The Absurd and Post-War Theatre				

Week 10	Samuel Beckett: <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (Act I) – Existentialism	
Week 11	Samuel Beckett: <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (Act II) – Concept of Time	
Week 12	Edward Bond: <i>The Sea</i>	Assignment 2
Week 13	Edward Bond: <i>The Sea</i>	
Week 14	Harold Pinter: <i>Mountain Language</i>	
Week 15	Review Session	
Week 16	End Term Examinations	
Textbooks and Reading Material		
1. Taylor-Batty, M. (2014). <i>The theatre of Harold Pinter</i>. Bloomsbury. 2. Hühn, P., & Kiefer, J. (2005). <i>The narratological analysis of lyric poetry: Studies in English poetry from the 16th to the 20th century</i> (A. Matthews, Trans.). Walter de Gruyter. 3. Billingham, P. (2013). <i>Edward Bond: A critical study</i>. Palgrave Macmillan. 4. Lawley, P. (2008). <i>Waiting for Godot: Character studies</i>. Continuum Publishing Group. 5. Houle, M. M. (2011). <i>Modern British poetry: "The world is never the same"</i> (Poetry Rocks!). Enslow Publishing.		
Teaching Learning Strategies		
• Lectures, seminars, and tutorials. • Close reading and textual analysis of plays. • Class discussions and audio-visual presentations. • Dramatic readings and performance-based learning.		
Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar		
Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted.		