

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



Programme	BS English Literature	Course Code	ELL-305	Credit Hours	03
Course Title	Modern Drama				
Course Introduction					
Modern day dramatic performances, live as well as those treated in different mediums of film and television, owe a lot to the genre of drama of antiquity. Building upon the prior knowledge of the key elements of the literary terms and techniques of drama learnt by students in the course of Classical Drama, this course will present some modern plays of the late nineteenth and twentieth century which have influenced the development of English drama. Though the knowledge of literary terms acquired in Classical Drama will be of great help, yet this course can be studied as an entirely independent module. The dramas suggested for this course lend a considerable amount of variety to different forms of tragedy and comedy. The course is designed to impart, discuss, evaluate, and above all enjoy the spirit of modern drama. The socio-cultural aspects of society reflected in the drama of the selected age will also be highlighted along with its significance in our modern world.					
Learning Outcomes					
1. An overview of some of the most influential dramatists of modern age and their works with reference to their themes and dramatic techniques.					
2. An emphasis on how certain dramatists are related to new ideas about the role of the theatre and its method.					
3. A number of literary texts are read together with critical and theoretical discussions.					
Course Content			Assignments/Readings		
Week 1	Introduction to Modern Drama Transition from Classical to Modern Theatre		Revision of Key Concepts		
Week 2	Henrik Ibsen <i>A Doll’s House</i> (1879) - Act I		Realism and Prose Drama		
Week 3	Henrik Ibsen <i>A Doll’s House</i> (1879) - Act II & III		Textual Analysis / Gender Roles		
Week 4	Bertolt Brecht <i>Life of Galileo</i> (1943) - Initial Scenes		Assignment 1		
Week 5	Bertolt Brecht <i>Life of Galileo</i> (1943) - Structural Study		Epic Theatre and Alienation Effect		
Week 6	Bertolt Brecht <i>Life of Galileo</i> (1943) - Final Scenes		Socio-political and historical themes		
Week 7	Mid-Term Review Comparative study of Ibsen and Brecht		Classroom Discussion		
Week 8	Mid-Term Examinations				
Week 9	Anton Chekhov <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> (1904) - Act I & II		Modern Tragicomedy / Aristocratic decline		
Week 10	Anton Chekhov <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> (1904) - Act III & IV		Symbolism and Russian Social Shift		
Week 11	Samuel Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (1953) - Act I		Theatre of the Absurd / Existentialism		
Week 12	Samuel Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (1953) - Act II		Assignment 2		
Week 13	Harold Pinter <i>The Caretaker</i> (1960) - Act I		Comedy of Menace / Pinteresque Pauses		
Week 14	Harold Pinter <i>The Caretaker</i> (1960) - Act II		Psychological power struggles		
Week 15	Harold Pinter <i>The Caretaker</i> (1960) - Act III		Textual Wrap-up & Final Review		
Week 16	End-Term Examinations				

Textbooks and Reading Material	
1.	Bloom, H. (Ed.). (2011). <i>Henrik Ibsen</i> (New ed., Bloom's Modern Critical Views). Bloom's Literary Criticism.
2.	Roessler, N., & Squiers, A. (Eds.). (2019). <i>Philosophizing Brecht: Critical readings on art, consciousness, social theory and performance</i> (Consciousness, Literature and the Arts). Brill.
3.	Clayton, J. D. (Ed.). (2012). <i>Adapting Chekhov: The text and its mutations</i> (Routledge Advances in Theatre & Performance Studies). Routledge.
4.	Krasner, D. (2012). <i>A history of modern drama: Volume I</i> . Wiley-Blackwell.
5.	Krasner, D. (2016). <i>A history of modern drama: Volume II</i> . Wiley-Blackwell.
Teaching Learning Strategies	
	• Class Discussion • Reading and analyzing the text through interactive sessions. • Class presentations. • Group Discussions. • Lectures, seminars and tutorials..
Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar	
	Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted.