

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department: English

Course Number and Title: ENGL 216: DRAMA

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of theatrical literary history
2. Distinguish among different types and subtypes of dramatic writing; for example, tragedy, comedy, social play, parody, satire, etc.
3. Identify different national traditions of dramatic writing
4. Identify major tropes and devices used in dramatic writing
5. Evaluate plays in their socio-historical context
6. Compare and contrast technical innovations in stage directions, choreography, props, etc
7. Relate themes to kinds of presentation and performance
8. Describe how certain themes/ideas are rewritten and redefined in plays from different time periods
9. Offer individual interpretations of the issues under study both orally and in writing

Resources Available to Students

2-3 Movies (depending on availability):

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
Hiroshima Mon Amour
M. Butterfly

The following plays (not from an anthology):

The Oresteia (Aeschylus); *The Braggart Soldier* (Plautus); *The Martyrdom of the Three Holy Virgins Fides, Spes, and Caritas* (Hrosvit von Gandersheim); *Hedda Gabler* (Henrik Ibsen); *The Cherry Orchard* (Anton Chekhov); *Six Characters In Search of an Author* (Luigi Pirandello); *The Death of a Salesman* (Arthur Miller); *The Black and White* (Harold Pinter); *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Tom Stoppard); *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (Marguerite Duras); *M. Butterfly* (David Henry Hwang)

Grading Criteria

Attendance: 5%
Oral Participation: 10%
Oral Report: 20%
Midterm: 30%
Final Exam: 35%

Schedule

Assignments are the readings and the preparation of oral reports (one per student). Activities consist of active class participation and 2-3 movie screenings.

Week 1: Course Introduction and General Lecture

Week 2: *The Oresteia* (Aeschylus)

Week 3: Continued; *The Braggart Soldier* (Plautus)

Week 4: Continued; *The Martyrdom of the Three Holy Virgins Fides, Spes, and Caritas* (Hrosvit von Gandersheim)

Week 5: *Hedda Gabler* (Henrik Ibsen)

Week 6: *The Cherry Orchard* (Anton Chekhov)

Week 7: MIDTERM; *Six Characters In Search of an Author* (Luigi Pirandello)

Week 8: Continued; Discussion of Midterm

Week 9: *The Death of a Salesman* (Arthur Miller)

Week 10: Continued; *The Black and White* (Harold Pinter)

Week 11: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Tom Stoppard)

Week 12: Continued; Movie; *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (Marguerite Duras)

Week 13: Continued; Movie

Week 14: *M. Butterfly* (David Henry Hwang)

Week 15: Movie; General Revision

5. Course Policy

Attendance is required by all students. More than 7 absences result in automatic withdrawal from the course. Students are responsible for any materials covered during their absence. Cheating and plagiarism result in automatic failure on the assigned task. Further, students caught cheating will be referred to the Student Affairs Committee for further disciplinary action.