

## **Course description**

## **Descriptif du cours**

**Department : English**

**Instructor (s): Ines Gharbi**

**Academic year: 2021\_2022**

**Level: 1<sup>st</sup> Year**

**Course title: Drama**

**Course outline:**

### **Week One &Two**

\_Defining drama, its major categories, its specific nature

\_Introducing some dramatic conventions (dramatis personae, stage directions, main types of speech etc....

### **Week Three & Four**

\_A historical overview of the Greek era

\_The origins of Drama starting as a religious rite in Greece, 6<sup>th</sup> c B.C

\_The origins of Tragedy developing from the dithyramb

\_ Introduce the main Greek dramatists Aeschylus (525\_458 BC), Sophocles ( 496\_406BC) and Euripides (480\_406 BC) , and their major works.

### **Week Five**

\_Theoretical principles: Aristotle's definition of tragedy (a selection of quotations from *The Poetics* to underline the definitions of the fundamentals of a Greek tragedy

\_Aristotle's definition plot, tragic hero and elements of Greek tragedy (selected extracts from Euripides' *Hippolytus*. The opening scene, characterization of Hippolytus and the goddesses.

### **Week Six**

\_Selection from scene II and scene III to identify the elements of Greek tragedy

### **Week Seven**

\_ The perception of women (goddesses and humans).

\_Initiation to the notion of fate.

### **Week Eight and Nine**

\_ Defining character: the tragic hero, its distinctive characteristics according to Aristotle.

### **Week Ten**

Round up session

### **Week Eleven**

Exams or testing

### **Week Twelve**

Correction of test

### **Course objectives:**

The course is designed to introduce Drama as a literary genre to 1<sup>st</sup> year students. The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the main terms and concepts used in dramatic theory mainly the components of a play which will help them acquire a better understanding of literary texts and thus produce a critical analysis of plays.

As we shall focus on Greek tragedy in particular, the course will be centered around the study of some extracts from Euripides' *Hippolytus*. Starting from the basics of the Aristotelian *The Poetics*, we will discover the components of Greek tragedy and its characteristics. Tracing the birth of tragedy in ancient myth is, therefore a prerequisite to make the students grasp the nature of Greek tragedy and the society that produced it .

### **Method of evaluation:**

Students will be assigned some tasks to do at home and to prepare some presentations in addition to their tests and exams

**References:**

Draper,R.P.ed ,*Tragedy: Developments in Criticism*. London: The Macmillan Press Ltd,1980.

Jones,John. *On Aristotle and Greek Tragedy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,1980.

Kitto,H.D.F, *Form and Meaning in Drama* .London: Methuen University Paperbacks,1959.

Leech, Clifford, *Tragedy: The Critical Idiom*. London: Routledge, 1969.

Morgan, Margary, *Drama, Plays, Theatre, and Performance* .Essex : York Press, 1987.