

Course description

Descriptif du cours

Department : English

Instructor (s): Ines Gharbi

Academic year: 2021_2022

Level: 1st 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, 6th 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 1st 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.