

EN3589: MODERN DRAMA: TEXT AND PERFORMANCE

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Modern Drama: Text and Performance

Subject Code

EN - English

Course Number

3589

Academic Unit

English (EN)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

EN2716 English Speech and Performance

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to help students discover the paradigms of drama as both text and performance. Drawing on a representative selection of modern plays, students will learn how to discuss, evaluate, and perform dramatic texts. Through critical and creative engagement, students will extend their knowledge of the conventions and contexts of modern drama and experiment with its applications in performance.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the structure, conventions and contexts of drama and apply this knowledge in written and performed assignments.	x	x	
2	Analyse the elements of a speech, scene or performance using critical vocabulary.	x	x	x
3	Generate interpretations of dramatic texts in both writing and performance.	x	x	x
4	Respond to readings and reflect on activities in regular writing tasks.	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Class work participation.	Students will actively engage in and contribute to the weekly in-class discussions, readings, and activities.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Monologue	Students will prepare and perform a monologue, applying the interpretive skills learned in class.	1, 2, 3
3	Scene Study	Students will research, prepare and perform a scene or a short play.	1, 2, 3
4	Reading Responses	Students will respond to the readings and in-class activities through a variety of critical and reflective writing tasks.	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Class work participation. Meaningful contribution to discussion, creative initiative and ability during in-class exercises. Cooperative attitude. Engaged participation in both group and individual activities.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Individual assessment	No
2	Monologue The preparation and performance of a monologue/ speech from a play.	1, 2, 3	20	Individual assessment	Yes
3	Scene Study A researched and performed scene or short play.	1, 2, 3	30	Group assessment	Yes
4	Reading Responses Regular written responses to readings and activities, in-class and/or online.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Individual assessment	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

AI use in the Scene Study assignment is restricted as outlined in the assessment guidelines for the course.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Class work participation.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Articulate and perceptive contributions to discussion. Good creative initiative and ability during in-class exercises. Extremely cooperative attitude, excellent attendance and punctuality.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Generally articulate and perceptive contributions to discussion. Generally good creative initiative and ability during in-class exercises. Cooperative attitude, good attendance and punctuality.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderately articulate and perceptive contributions to discussion. Some creative initiative and ability during in-class exercises. Cooperative attitude, reasonable attendance and punctuality.

Marginal (D)

Partially articulate and perceptive contributions to discussion. Occasional initiative and ability during in-class exercises. Generally cooperative attitude, reasonable attendance and punctuality.

Failure (F)

Inarticulate and unperceptive. No initiative or ability during in-class exercises. Generally uncooperative attitude, poor attendance and punctuality.

Assessment Task

2. Monologue

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Creative, engaging and relevant.
Clearly structured and articulated.
Wholly supports purpose.
Concludes strongly, reinforces purpose.
- Fluent
- Grammatically accurate
- Natural pronunciation
- High interest level
Highly positive and persuasive.
Steady eye contact w/audience
Natural pace. Natural volume.
Non-use or unobtrusive use of cue cards/notes.
Full rapport with audience throughout presentation.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Mostly creative, engaging and relevant.
Mostly supports purpose.
Moderately strong ending.
- Mostly fluent
- Only minor grammar errors
- Pronunciation mostly clear
- Moderate interest level
Moderately positive and persuasive.
Partial eye contact.
Pace occasionally erratic.
Volume occasionally variable.
Some dependence on cue cards/notes.
Moderate audience rapport throughout most of presentation.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Partially creative, engaging and relevant.
Partly supports purpose.
Weak/incomplete ending.
- Fairly fluent.
- Frequent grammatical errors.
- Pronunciation affects listener comprehension
- Limited interest level
Slightly persuasive.

Periodic eye contact with part of audience.
Pace of delivery interferes with comprehension and audience interest.
Inaudible at times; overly dependent on cue cards/notes.
Intermittent audience rapport.
Limited ability to hold audience attention.

Marginal (D)

Much irrelevant information.
Barely engages audience.
Presentation structure is only barely discernible.
Abrupt/unexpected/incomplete ending.
- Limited fluency
- Excessive grammatical errors
- Pronunciation unclear
- Interest level weak
Barely persuasive.
Minimal eye contact.
Erratic pace distracts.
Volume inadequate.
Overuse of cue cards/notes.
Only occasional instances of audience rapport.

Failure (F)

Does not engage the audience, incomplete, not creative.
Presentation structure not identifiable.
Confusing to the listener.
Unmarked ending.
- Lack of fluency.
- Inaccuracy of pronunciation.
- Not interesting.
Not persuasive.
No eye contact.
Pace and volume impede audience comprehension.
Totally dependent on reading.
Audience rapport absent.

Assessment Task

3.Scene Study

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Credible, engaging and nuanced characterisation.
Dynamic interaction with partners.
Accurate and articulate vocal delivery.
Highly effective use of non-verbal modes of communication.
Demonstrated use of imagination and innovation in performance.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Credible and engaging characterisation.
Generally effective interaction with partners.
Generally accurate and articulate vocal delivery, with a few errors.
Generally effective use of non-verbal modes of communication.
Some evidence of use of imagination and innovation.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Partially credible and engaging characterisation.
Intermittently effective interaction with partners.
Intermittently accurate and articulate vocal delivery, with many errors.
Limited use of non-verbal modes of communication.
Little evidence of use of imagination and innovation.

Marginal (D)

Barely credible, generally unengaging characterisation.
Little interaction with partners.
Poor accuracy and articulation of vocal delivery with many errors.
Poor use of non-verbal modes of communication.
Little or no evidence of use of imagination and innovation.

Failure (F)

Non-credible and unengaged characterisation.
No interaction with partners.
Inaccurate and inarticulate vocal delivery.
Absence of non-verbal modes of communication.
No evidence of use of imagination.

Assessment Task

4. Reading Responses

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Balanced and constructive comments.
Clear and specific description.
Logical and coherent. Excellent articulation of discoveries.
Accurate and appropriate use of language.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Mostly objective reflection.
Mostly balanced and constructive comments
.Mostly clear and specific description.
Mostly logical and coherent. Good articulation of discoveries.
Mostly accurate and appropriate use of language.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Partially objective reflection.
Partially balanced and constructive comments.
Partially clear and specific description.
Partially logical and coherent.
Partial articulation of discoveries.
Partially accurate and appropriate use of language.

Marginal (D)

Limited objective reflection.
Few balanced and constructive comments.
Generally unclear and unspecific description.
Frequently illogical and sometimes incoherent.
Limited articulation of discoveries.
Intermittently accurate and appropriate use of language.

Failure (F)

Absence of objective reflection.

Absence of balanced and constructive comments.
 Unclear and unspecific description.
 Illogical and incoherent articulation.
 Inaccurate and inappropriate use of language.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Modern drama; performance; critical analysis; creative expression.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Greenwald et al, eds. The Longman Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Drama: A Global Perspective. London: Pearson, 2004.
2	Elsam, Paul. (2011). Acting characters [electronic resource]: 20 essential steps from rehearsal to performance. London : Methuen Drama.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Supplementary readings distributed by instructor.