

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/ Department:	Communications, Arts & Social Sciences
Programme:	Performance and Theatre Arts
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Classical British Theatre: Fire Over England
Course Code:	THR 6200
Course Leader:	Dr. M. Barclay
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Seminar /Tutorials:	15
Screenings:	10
Lectures/Presentations:	20
Independent/Guided Learning	75
Semester:	Fall and/or Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Examines the classical traditions in British theatre, as they are perceived today. Students look at a range of plays from the Renaissance tragedies of Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare and John Webster to the twentieth century tragedies of dramatists such as T. S. Eliot.

Lectures concentrate on textual studies and criticism, and a number of theatre visits are undertaken where possible, these are productions of plays taught on the course.

Prerequisites: THR 4200

Aims and Objectives:

This course surveys the tragic tradition in English theatre from the Renaissance, with its roots in Ancient Greek Drama, through to the present day. Drama is studied as text and in performance. In addition to the set texts, students see a number of films of plays, which are regarded as set works for the course. Students are required to read the plays before each class.

The course will trace the roots of Elizabethan Drama in Ancient Greek Drama and the Medieval Morality play. Specific references to the work of Euripides, Sophocles and Aeschylus will be made as well as Aristotle's *Poetics*, to examine their influence on Marlowe and

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

A1, A4, A6, A7, A8, A11, B1, B3, B6, B7, B12, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C8, C9, C11, D7, D8.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students should be able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of the influence of Classical Greek Drama on late 16th and early 17th Century English drama.
- Students should be able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of the knowledge base relating to production practice and conditions of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatres.
- Students will develop a current understanding of the established theories and concepts relating to Classical Theatre through the study of specific texts and should be able to articulate ideas of character and representation through the structures of key works in drama from this period.
- Analyse new, novel or abstract data from a range of information from secondary sources with personal assessments of key works from this period.
- Students should demonstrate an understanding of the socio-economic-historical background under which the dramatists studied on this course worked and created their dramas.
- Students should be able to consider texts in performance, taking structure, character, and directorial interpretation into account.

Indicative Content:

- Introduction to Ancient Greek Drama and The Medieval Morality Play.
- The impact of Christopher Marlowe on the Elizabethan Theatre.
Dido, Queen of Carthage.
Dr. Faustus and the Faustian Legend.
- *Edward II* and Derek Jarman's modern interpretation.
- The Jacobean Theatre of John Webster.
- John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*.
- John Webster's *The White Devil*.
- Jacobean Revenger's Tragedy, William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.
- Ralph Fiennes, *Coriolanus*
- Thomas Middleton's *The Changeling*.

- The revival of English Verse Drama, T. S. Elliot's *Murder in The Cathedral*.
- Classical Drama in the present day.
- Course Revision.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved by Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

One section of the course will trace the roots of Elizabethan Drama in Ancient Greek Drama and the Medieval Morality play. Specific references to the work of Euripides, Sophocles and Aeschylus will be made as well as Aristotle's *Poetics*, to examine their influence on Marlowe and Shakespeare.

One section of the course will focus on the Jacobean dramatists with a specific study of the *Jacobean Revenger's Tragedy*. The plays of John Webster and Thomas Middleton will be studied in detail.

One section of the course will focus on the revival of the verse drama with specific reference to the work of T S Eliot.

Bibliography:

Christopher Marlowe: **Dido, Queen of Carthage**
Dr. Faustus
Edward II

All in *THE COMPLETE PLAYS OF CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE*, Penguin Classics.

John Webster: **The Duchess of Malfi**
The White Devil

The complete plays of William Shakespeare

The plays of Thomas Middleton

The plays of T. S. Eliot

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
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