

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (January-May 2018)

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| School: | Undergraduate Studies |
| Programme with title: | BA (Honours) |
| Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V) | VI semester |
| Course Title: | Modern World Drama |
| Credits: | 4 |
| Course Code (new): | SUS1EN272 |

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective X

Course Coordinator and Team: Bodh Prakash&Vikram Singh Thakur

Email of course coordinator: bodh@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: The course introduces students to modern drama written in various language traditions across the world through English translations. It will familiarize students with realism, naturalism, existentialism, social criticism and postcolonialism in drama. The course would benefit students by engaging them with a particular genre of literature in depth. The course may include the following themes and plays written by major dramatists across the world:

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

I. Realism in Modern Drama: Henrik Ibsen, "A Doll's House", 1879. Trans. Peter Watts. *A Doll's*

House and Other Plays. Penguin

II. Naturalism in Modern Drama: Strindberg, *Miss Julie*, 1888

III. Epic Theatre: Bertolt Brecht, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, 1939. Trans. Eric Bentley. NY:

Grove Press, 1966.

IV. The Theatre of the Absurd: Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, 1948

V. Social Criticism: Satish Alekar, *The Dread Departed*, 1973. *Collected Plays of Satish Alekar*. New

Delhi: OUP, 2009.

VI. Postcolonial Drama: Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*, 1975

Long List for presentations and discussions: Some of the following plays will be taken up by students for class presentations

- John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger* (1956)
- Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard* (1904)
- Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1921)
- G B Shaw, *Pygmalion* (1913)
- Mahesh Dattani, *Final Solutions* (1993)
- Derek Walcott, *Dream on Monkey Mountain* (1970)
- Jean Genet, *The Maids*
- Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party* (1957)
- Edward Albee, *Who is Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (1962)

Suggested Readings:

Deshpande, G. P. "History, Politics and the Modern Playwright". *Theatre India* (May 1999).

Dharwadkar, Aparna Bhargava. *Theatres of Independence: Drama, Theory, and Urban Performance in India since 1947*. New Delhi: OUP, 2006.

Esslin, Martin. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961.

---. Samuel Beckett: a collection of critical essays. Vol. 51. Prentice Hall Direct, 1965.

Madsen, Børge Gedsø. "Strindberg As a Naturalistic Theorist: The Essay "On Modern

Drama Och Modern Teater””. Scandinavian Studies, Vol. 30, No. 2 (MAY, 1958), 85-92.

Styan, J. L. *Modern Drama in Theory and Practice*. Cambridge University Press, 1983.

White, John J. *Bertolt Brecht's Dramatic Theory*. NY: Camden House, 2004

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

| S.No | Assessment | Date/period in which Assessment will take place | Weightage |
|-------------|--------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Mid Semester Exam | Mid-February | 30% |
| 2 | Home Assignments | Throughout the semester | 20% |
| 4 | End Semester Exam | As per AUD Academic Calendar | 30% |
| 5 | Class Presentation | April | 20% |