The Islamia University of Bahawapur

Department of English

Course Material Bundle for MA English (Language and Literature) 1st semester

Classical Drama I

Course Instructor: Dr. M. Ayub Jajja

**Course Outline**: King Oedipus, Dr. Faustus, Hamlet, Macbeth and King Lear

**Important Topics:** (i)King Oedipus (the man) as a tragic hero (ii) King Oedipus (the play) as a tragedy (iii) Marlow’s concept of hero/Dr. Faustus as a tragic hero.(iv) Representation of Renaissance spirit in Dr. Faustus. (v)Dr. Faustus as a morality play (vi) Hamlet (the play) as a tragedy. (vii)The issue of delay in Hamlet/ Hamlet as tragic hero. (viii) Macbeth (the man ) as a Tragic hero( ix) King Lear as a tragic hero (x) the character of Cordelia

**Recommended Supplementary Reference Books and Articles:**

**One Consolidated Final Exam:** There will be a compulsory question of critical analysis of given passages carrying 20 marks. Students will be required to attempt Five parts. There will be Four more subjective questions, each carrying 15 marks.

**Set of Lecture notes Per Topic: (i) King Oedipus as tragic hero:** He has this larger than life image because of his accomplishments and achievements ( ii) This gives him first place among men. He has glory, and fame(iii) He promises to do whatever needs to be done for his people (iv) He is told by the high priest that he is the cause of the suffering of his people, for his unintentional crimes. (v) High priest asks him to give up the government and leave the city (vi) Instead of doing the need full, as he earlier promised, he blames the high priest for being a conspirator. (vii) This is a mistake (**tragic flaw)** for which he pays a very high price (viii) His punishment is worse than death (ix) the audience experience pity for the king and fear for themselves (x) this is catharsis.

**King Oedipus as a Tragedy: Topic ( 2)(i)** King Oedipus **is** a hero because of his exalted position . (ii) His city is visited by a plague. (iii) He commits a mistake by not honouring his words. (iv) His punishment is far more than he deserves for his unintentional crimes (v) He leaves his city as an outcast and worse than a beggar (vi) the language of the play is sublime. (vii) The play should have reasonable duration. (viii) The subject matter of the play is serious (ix) there is no justice in tragedy(x) Audience experience catharsis.

**Dr. Faustus as Tragic Hero: Topic (3)** (i) Dr. Faustus has command over several languages. He has command over almost every known discipline, like divinity, astronomy, medicine, law etc . (ii) He is famous for his accomplishments (iii) His tragic flaw is that he is excessively ambitious “Till, swollen with self-conceit, his waxen wings did mount above his reach”(iv) He wants to be as powerful here in the world as god. “ All things that move between the quiet poles shall be at my command.” (v) He gives up the path of God and religion and decides to study magic, which is not allowed by religion (vi) He experiences conflict. (vii) One part of his self pulls him towards God , the part of him pulls him towards his ambition. (viii) He studies magic and signs a contract with Satan to become omnipotent here in this world at the cost of his soul. (ix) He gains power in the world (x) At the time of his premature death, he is filled with regret for making a bad bargain and goes to hell(xi) His suffering, misery and sheer sense of loss produces catharsis in the audience. “Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight”

**Element of Renaissance in Dr. Faustus: Topic (4)** (i) Renaissance means revival of ancient Roman and Greek civilizational influences. (ii) Dr. Faustus’s desire for wealth, honour and power in this world, “O, what a world of profit and delight, of power, of honour, of omnipotence is promised to the studious artisan!” (iii) His rejection of conventional subjects of study and opting for newer, but forbidden, disciplines (magic) (iv) His sense of curiosity (v)His partiality for the charms of this world(vi) References to ancient Roman and Greek myths, legends and mythologies (vii) His abiding discontent with what he had (viii) His dismissive attitude towards the damnation of his soul (ix) His readiness to face the risks and consequences for the fulfilment of his desires (x) His appreciation of beauty. “Was this the face that launched a thousand ships and burnt the topless towers of Ilium?”

**Hamlet as Tragedy: Topic (4)**

King Lear Text:

<https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/download/pdf/Lr.pdf>

Reference Articles:

<http://www.unice.fr/crookall-cours/iup_geopoli/docs/thegeopolitics-of-king-lear.pdf>

<https://litakerbc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/capstoneproject-for-b-litaker.pdf>

http://ccurley.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/93343718/ King%20Lear%20and%20the%20Decline%20of%20Feudalism.p df

https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi? article=1784&context=theses

<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-literature/theultimate-tragic-hero-king-lear-english-literature-essay.php>

<https://www.marxists.org/subject/art/lit_crit/works/shakes.htm>

Dr Faustus Text:

https://books.google.com.pk/books/about/ The\_Tragical\_History\_of\_Doctor\_Faustus.html? id=yPxdv3\_cwHQC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp\_read\_butto n&redir\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Reference Articles:

<https://extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/si-16/duxfdrfs.htm>

<http://facta.junis.ni.ac.rs/lal/lal200902/lal200902-07.pdf>

<http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/larsonmarlowe.htm>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 336209641\_Dr\_Faustus\_as\_a\_Morality\_Play

<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-literature/drfaustus-as-a-literary-tragic-hero-english-literature-essay.php>

<https://www.gradesaver.com/dr-faustus>

Macbeth Text:

<https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/html/Mac.html>

Reference Articles:

https://scholarworks.uno.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi? article=3091&context=td

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/5197/ a290f3cef4315c68123b4aa8ddbbefa1156c.pdf

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1080666.pdf>

<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/philosophy/who-do-youthinks-responsible-for-macbeths-downfall-philosophyessay.php>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/ambition-of-macbeth-2985019>

https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/RHSS/article/viewFile/ 23445/24160

<http://www.ijelr.in/4.4.17/58-60%20HARISH%20NEELALA.pdf>

Hamlet Text:

<https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/html/Ham.html>

Reference Articles:

https://openjournals.library.sydney.edu.au/index.php/SSE/ article/viewFile/512/484

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/hamlet-and-revenge>

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/0e1d/ 4a53ffb1ac845b822f3d7dcfe8fbd6dc1317.pdf

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/hamlet-a-lovestory>

<https://ddd.uab.cat/pub/tfg/2016/169519/TFG_annafluvia.pdf>

http://www.dpi-proceedings.com/index.php/dtssehs/article/ viewFile/19116/18610

Oedipus Rex Text:

https://www.slps.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx? moduleinstanceid=22453&dataid=25126&FileName=SophoclesOedipus.pdf

Reference Articles/Videos:

<https://patrumtheologia.wordpress.com/2016/10/27/thearistotelian-tragedy-of-oedipus-rex/>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 326042102\_ROLE\_OF\_FATE\_IN\_PLAY\_OEDIPUS\_REX\_BY\_SOPHOC LES https://aero-net.org/oedipus-rex-as-a-tragic-hero/ https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/ 10.1080/00207578.2018.1452570? scroll=top&needAccess=true&

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3310127/ https://study.com/academy/lesson/oedipus-rex-by-sophoclessummary-theme-analysis.html