

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

Department of English

M.A. English Literature

Course: Classical Drama II

Semester: 2nd (Evening)

Instructor: Syed Arslan Ahmad

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Course Description: This course is meant to introduce and evaluate various dramatic works. It specifically focuses on comedies, and explores how comedic genre varies in style and flair under the influence of different playwrights. It is expected that by the end of the course, students will be able appreciate the qualities and complexities of the plays, and most importantly, they will be able to appreciate the genre of drama itself.

Course Topics

▪ **Merchant of Venice: William Shakespeare**

The text of *the Merchant of Venice*.

The characteristics of William Shakespeare's comedies.

The heroines in William Shakespeare's comedies.

The Merchant of Venice: Themes.

Analysis: Antonio.

Analysis: Shylock.

▪ **The Alchemist: Ben Jonson**

The text of *the Alchemist*.

The characteristics of the Comedy of Humours.

Social critique in *the Alchemist*.

The Alchemist: Themes.

Analysis: Face, Subtle, and Dol Common

Mid-term Examination

- **Twelfth Night: William Shakespeare**

The text of *Twelfth Night*.

Depiction of Love in *Twelfth Night*.

Themes in *Twelfth Night*.

Analysis: Viola, Olivia, and Orsino.

- **The School for Scandal: R.B. Sheridan**

The text of *the School for Scandal*.

The characteristics of the comedy of manners.

The critique of society in *the School for Scandal*.

Appearance and Reality in *the School for Scandal*.

Themes of *the School for Scandal*.

Final-term Examination

- **Required Books:**

The Merchant of Venice: William Shakespeare

The Alchemist: Ben Jonson

Twelfth Night: William Shakespeare

The School for Scandal: R.B. Sheridan

- **Suggested Readings:**

Encyclopedia of Renaissance Literature: James Wyatt Cook

- **Assessment Methodology**

Students will be examined continuously by means of assignments, quizzes, and discussions on the course topics. All assignments, discussions, and quizzes will cover significant concepts, and theories from the course content studied throughout the semester.

Note: If any student still has any difficulty in understanding any particular concept from the given topics, they may forward their queries to the class representatives. Furthermore, it will be the responsibility of the CR/GR to gather up the queries and forward those to me.

Arslan Ahmad