



ARSD College, University of Delhi

Lesson Plan

Course Name : B.A (Hons) English						
Semester	Course Code	Course Title	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)	Credit (C)
VI	12031601	Modern European Drama	2	2	0	5
Teacher/Instructor(s)		Shibani Phukan				
Session		2021-22				

Course Objective:

- Provides an overview of how modernity was introduced in 20th C drama
- Provides an overview of formative theatrical movements in Europe
- Focuses on innovative performance trends at the end of the 19th C and their evolution into the 20th C
- Underscores the engagement of theatre with social issues
- Help understand the dynamic relationship between actors and audience
- Sensitise students to issues of class and feminist interventions in theatre

Course Learning Outcomes:

- To understand concepts such as modernity, theatricality, absurd theatre, epic theatre etc
- Engaging with theoretical concepts such as realism, naturalism etc while reading prescribed texts
- Ability to see intersectionality of class/gender/ideological issues with others and those present in the various texts
- To express understanding through writing
- To demonstrate conceptual and textual understanding in assignments and exams

Lesson Plan:

Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be covered
1.	Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts	1	Introduction to Modern European Drama
		2	Introduction to Ibsen
		3	Introduction to Ibsen
		4	Introduction to Naturalism
		5	Lecture on Ghosts
		6	Lecture on Ghosts
		7	Lecture on Ghosts
		8	Lecture on Ghosts
		9	Lecture on Ghosts

		10	Lecture on Ghosts		
		11	Lecture on Ghosts		
		12	Lecture on Ghosts		
2.	Bertolt Brecht's The Good Woman of Szechuan	13	Introduction to Brecht		
		14	Lecture on epic theatre		
		15-16	Lecture on tenets of epic theatre		
		17	Lecture on Good Person		
		18-19	Lecture on Good Person		
		20	Lecture on Alienation-effect		
		21	Lecture on role of Gods		
		22	Lecture on Interludes		
		23	Lecture on class		
				24	Lecture on gender
				25	Lecture on Epilogue
3	Readings	26	Lecture on Brecht's essay		
		27	Lecture on Brecht's essay		
		28	Lecture on Strindberg's Preface to Miss Julie		
		29	Lecture on Stanislavski		
		30	Lecture on Stanislavski		
		31	Lecture on Dario Fo		
		32	Lecture on Dario Fo		
		33	Lecture on Ionesco		

Evaluation Scheme:

No.	Component	Duration	Marks
1.	Internal Assessment	3 hr	25
	• Quiz		
	• Class Test		
	• Attendance		
	• Assignment		
2.	End Semester Examination	3 hr	75

Details of the Course		
Unit	Contents	Contact Hours
I	Henrik Ibsen's play Ghosts is a controversial play that offers a scathing critique of bourgeois society and its blind adherence to traditions and customs at all cost. The play offers a comprehensive critique of patriarchy and the prevalence of stereotypes about normative behaviour and the consequent repression of women. The role that society and religion play in stultifying society is also examined. The play also examines the intersection of class and gender and the capitalist desire for upward mobility and the shape it takes in a gendered manner. The play makes a case out for a systemic overhaul of society and its mores the health of society to be restored.	12
II	Brecht's The Good Woman of Szechuan familiarises students with the radical concept of epic theatre. Brecht through adopting the technique of defamiliarisation revisits evils of society such as extant poverty, exploitation and lack of compassion for each other; and forces one to look at these issues afresh. Gender issues are also at the heart of the play and a certain complexity that underlies issues of gender, class, sexuality, marriage; are heightened owing	16

	to the fact that the protagonist of the play is a prostitute. The play also examines the concept of morality in society and raises the question of its relevance in an unequal society. Belief in god, religion, the ten commandments are interrogated and challenged. The play also deploys new theatrical innovations and draws inspiration from technological innovations and theatre practices such as Noh dramas or Eisenstein's cinema to bring new ideas to theatre and its presentation.	
III	The reading list is a comprehensive one and enables students to understand the gradual curve of modernity in theatre. Various movements of theatre are highlighted to show the impact of modernity on theatrical practices and issues undertaken. The impact of Impressionism, Expressionism, Avand-garde theatre, Theatre of the Absurd, Naturalism, Epic theatre, and so on is elaborated upon and a connect between theories of theatre and its practice is established. Most playwrights of drama during this period were also theorists and this enable students to further understand theatre as performative; and the issues that therefore arise and merit inspection.	
	Total	33

Suggested Books:

Sl. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers	Year of Publication/Reprint
1.	Williams, Raymond. Drama from Ibsen to Brecht. Hammondsworth: Penguin, 1968.	1968
2.	Williams, Raymond. Modern Tragedy. Broadview Press	2006
3.	Shaw, GB. The Quintessence of Ibsenism. London: Bancroft Library	1891
4.	Bentley, Eric. The Theory of the Modern Stage. New York: Applause. 1968.	1968
5.	Benjamin, Walter. Understanding Brecht. London. 1973	1973
6.	Jameson, Frederic. Brecht and Method. New York: Verso	2019
7.	Batram, Antony and Graham and Waive ed. Brecht in Pespective. London: Longman	
8.	Moi, Toril ed. Henrik Ibsen and the Birth of Modernism. Oxford: OUP.	2006
9.	Macfarlance, James ed. The Cambridge Companion to Ibsen. Cambridge: CUP	1994
10.	Egan, Michael ed. Henrik Ibsen: The Critical Heritage. London: Routledge.	1972
Mode of Evaluation:		Internal Assessment / End Semester Exam