241: Appreciating Drama
Dr. Samia AL-Shayban

Grades: 15% participation (class and online discussion), 15% midterm, 10% seminar presentation.

The course provides critical introduction to the most well known and influential theatres in the world: Ancient Greek, Japanese and British. Dramatic literature, dramatic theories and theatre history are components that will be looked at to give general at the same time detailed information about different theatres. Broad issues like gender, myths and religion will be looked from various cultural and historical perspectives to understand the cultures that shaped them.

Course Outlines:

- Greek theatre
  1. Origin
  2. Tragedy and comedy
  3. Greek gods
  4. Aristotle’s *Poetics*
  5. Euripides’ *Medea*

Seminars:

1. Greek tragedy/comedy
2. Euripides
3. *Medea’s Myth/characters*

- Ancient Japanese theatre
  1. Theatre/ different genres
  2. Nanboku IV’s Yotsuya Kaidan
Seminars:

1. Types of Japanese Drama
2. Mythology on the Japanese theatre
3. Yotsuya Kaidan

• British Drama:
  1. Origin
  2. Morality/ Miracle drama
  3. Everyman

Seminars:

1. The church and drama
2. The moral lesson in Everyman
3. Everyman and Islam

• Online discussion:
  1. Women in Greek tragedy/Euripides
  2. Myths in Greek and Japanese theatre
  3. Moral messages in everyman/Medea/Kotsuya Kaidan