

ELT371e Jacobean Drama

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

E-Learning: BLENDED - Learning is done MAINLY online using interactive study materials in Canvas. Students receive guidance and support from online instructors via discussion forums and emails. This is supplemented with SOME face-to-face sessions. If the course has an exam component, this will be administered on-campus.

Synopsis:

Seventeenth-century plays written and performed during the reign of King James I (1603-1625) display a distinctive focus on sex, money and power. This course looks at Shakespeare's contemporaries, such as Ben Jonson, John Webster, and Thomas Middleton. Particular attention will be given to the nature and development of the Jacobean dramatic genre of revenge tragedy and to perhaps the greatest comedy of the period – Jonson's *Volpone* – whose concerns are closely related to those of revenge drama. Students will also look at the treatment of gender and morality in the context of Jacobean theatre and society, and engage with critical debates and theoretical approaches to selected Jacobean plays. We will conclude by studying a slightly later play, John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (1629), that summarizes the thematic preoccupations and tactics of Jacobean drama. Attention will be given, especially in the online components, to the plays in performance and to Jacobean theatres and staging.

Topics:

- Study Unit 1: Social and Literary Context
- Objectives and Overview
- Chapter 1: An Age of Anxiety
- Chapter 2: Jacobean Revenge and Christian Ideas of Evil
- Study Unit 2: Focus on Four Plays
- Objectives and Overview
- Chapter 3: The Revenger's Tragedy
- Study Unit 2: Focus on Four Plays
- Chapter 4: The Duchess of Malfi
- Study Unit 2: Focus on Four Plays
- Chapter 5: *Volpone*
- Study Unit 2: Focus on Four Plays
- Review Chapters 4 and 5
- Study Unit 2: Focus on Four Plays
- Chapter 6: *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*
- Review *'Tis a Pity She's a Whore*
- Study Unit 3: Review and Conclusion
- Objectives and Overview
- Chapter 7: Wrap-Up

Textbooks:

Ben Jonson: *Volpone*
ISBN-13: 9780719051821

: Four Revenge Tragedies: The Spanish Tragedy/The Revenger's Tragedy/'Tis 'Pity She's a Whore/The White Devil
ISBN-13: 9781408159606

John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi
ISBN-13: 9781472520654

Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate the use of close reading skills to examine literary style and thematic issues in Jacobean drama.
- Show the significance of the social and political context of Jacobean society
- Analyse the distinctive literary and thematic characteristics of Jacobean revenge drama
- Formulate a critical overview of the contemporary relevance of the thematic preoccupations and tactics of Jacobean drama
- Compare and contrast the use of various stylistic aspects and the treatment of issues in plays
- Compose academic essays that employ the appropriate skills in scholarly research, writing and citation

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	5
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 2	5
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	20
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	20
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
Total		100