

## HL 226/HL 2026: READING DRAMA

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This subject will examine the major dramatic movements in drama from the Greeks through the present. Special attention will be given to how the theatrical concerns of one era influenced the developments of the next. Authors are likely to include Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Moliere, Ibsen, Pirandello, Brecht, Beckett, Pinter, Norman, and Howe.

### 1. Core Texts:

All plays available through EdveNTUre except the following:

Self-sourcing– **Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead***, London: Grove Press, 1994. ISBN – 0802132758

Available in *The Norton Anthology to English Literature, Volume 1*  
- **Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus***

Available in *The Norton Anthology to English Literature, Volume 2*  
**Harold Pinter, *The Dumbwaiter***

### 2. Films:

(held in the library and to be screened in class)

*The Dutchman*, from the play by Amiri Baraka

### Method of Instruction

Lectures : 2 hours per week  
Tutorials : 1 hour per week

### Course Assessment

Continuous Assessment : 50 %  
Final Examination : 50 %

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100%

### A.

**Proposal for the short Essay (10%):** This 400 word proposal will make the case that the subject you are interested in is worthy of an essay.

**Final Essay (40%):** This 1700 word (lower limit) essay must defend an original thesis about one of the plays read in class – and do so by reflecting on secondary material about the play and/or the author of the play. You must use at least 3 secondary sources.

**B. The Final Examination** will consist of two essay questions, each worth equal points.

**\*\*Warning\*\* Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the course.**

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### Proposed Lecture Schedule

<b>Week No.</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1	Course Introduction -	
Week 2	Introduction to Greek Drama	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i>
Week 3	Medieval Drama	Anonymous, <i>The Brome Play of Abraham and Issac</i> Anonymous, <i>Mankind</i>
Week 4	Renaissance Drama	Christopher Marlowe: <i>Dr. Faustus</i> – Available in <i>The Norton Anthology to English Literature, Volume 1</i>
Week 5	No Class	
Week 6	Restoration Drama	Aphra Behn, <i>The Rover</i>
Week 7	French Neo-Classical	Moliere, <i>The Misanthrope</i>
Week 8	<i>Recess</i>	
Week 9	Realism	Anton Chekhov, <i>The Cherry Orchard</i>
Week 10	African American Drama	Amiri Baraka (Le Roi Jones), <i>Dutchman</i>
Week 11	Postcolonial Drama	Wole Soyinka, <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>
Week 12	Metatheatre	Tom Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i>
Week 13	Postmodern Drama?	Harold Pinter, <i>The Dumbwaiter</i> Available in <i>The Norton</i>

<b>Week No.</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
		<i>Anthology to English Literature, Volume 2</i>
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Feminist Perspectives</b>	<b>Tina Howe, <i>Painting Churches</i></b>