



**ENG 162**

**ELEMENTS OF  
DRAMA**

**Course Guide**

**COURSE  
GUIDE**

**ENG162  
ELEMENTS OF DRAMA**

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## **Introduction**

### **Welcome to ENG162: Elements of Drama**

This course is a two unit course available in the second semester of the first year BA English Language programme. The course serves as a foundation course in the study of dramatic literature. It exposes you to forms, theories and concepts. You will also read some plays which are used to illustrate the above. The materials have been developed with the Nigerian context in view. This course guide provides information on the organization and requirements of the course.

### **Course Aims**

The aims are to help you understand the concept of drama and the function of drama in the society. These broad aims will be achieved by:

- (i) Introducing you to the study of drama as a literary genre
- (ii) Familiarizing you with the unique characteristics of drama
- (iii) Acquainting you with techniques that will enable you read, appreciate and analyze plays.
- (iv) Preparing you for further studies in drama

### **Course Objectives**

There are twenty units in the course and each unit has its objectives. You should read the objectives of each unit and bear them in mind as you go through the unit.

On your successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- (a) Define drama.
- (b) Understand the concepts and principles that you need for the study and enjoyment of a play.
- (c) Recognize and explain the elements of drama.
- (d) Explain the dramatic genres
- (e) Recognize the dramatic techniques in a play
- (e) Analyse dramatic texts
- (f) Enjoy and appreciate any dramatic performance.

### **Working Through this Course**

To complete this course, you are required to read the study units, the recommended plays and other related materials. You will be required to undertake some exercises for which you need a pen, a note-book, and other materials that will be listed in this guide. At the end of each unit,

you will be required to submit written assignments for assessment purposes. At the end of the course, you will write a final examination.

### **Course Materials**

The major materials you will need for the course are:

1. Course Guide
2. Study Units
3. Textbooks
4. Assignments File
5. Presentation Schedule

### **Study Units**

The breakdown of the twenty study units are as follows:

#### **Module 1 Concepts and Definition**

- |        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Unit 1 | Drama as a Genre of Literature |
| Unit 2 | Origin and Functions of Drama  |
| Unit 3 | Elements of Drama: Imitation.  |
| Unit 4 | Elements of Drama: Plot.       |
| Unit 5 | Elements of Drama: Action      |
| Unit 6 | Elements of Drama: Dialogue.   |

#### **Module 2 Conventions and Techniques**

- |        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Unit 1 | Dramatic Technique: Characterization. |
| Unit 2 | Other Dramatic Techniques.            |
| Unit 3 | Dramatic Conventions.                 |

#### **Module 3 Dramatic Genres**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Unit 1 | Forms/ Types of Drama:<br>Tragedy, Comedy, Tragi-Comedy, Melodrama |
|--------|--|

#### **Module 4 Textual Analysis**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Unit 1 | Analysis of Texts   |
| Unit 2 | Textual Analysis: <i>Oedipus Rex</i> by Sophocles             |
| Unit 3 | Textual Analysis: <i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare        |
| Unit 4 | Textual Analysis: <i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller |

**Module 5 Textual Analysis**

Unit 1	Textual Analysis: <i>Song of a Goat</i> by J. P. Clark
Unit 2	Textual Analysis: <i>Arms and The Man</i> by George Bernard Shaw
Unit 3	Textual Analysis: <i>The Marriage of Anansewa</i> by Efua Sutherland
Unit 4	Textual Analysis: <i>The Lion and the Jewel</i> .

**Textbooks and Other References**

Every unit contains a list of references and further readings. Try to get as many as possible of those textbooks and materials listed. The textbooks and materials are meant to deepen your knowledge of the course.

**Assessment File**

An assessment file and a marking scheme will be made available to you. In the assessment file, you will find details of the works you must submit to your tutor for marking. There are two aspects of the assessment of this course; the tutor marked and the written examination. The marks you obtain in these two areas will make up your final marks. The assignment must be submitted to your tutor for formal assessment in accordance with the deadline stated in the presentation schedule and the assignment file.

**Tutor-Marked Assignment**

You will have to submit a specified number of the Tutor-Marked Assignment. Every unit in this course has a tutor marked assignment. You are required to attempt all questions, and you will be assessed on all of them but the best four performances from the Tutor-Marked Assignment will be used for your 30% grading. When you have completed each assignment, send it together with a Tutor-Marked Assignment form, to your tutor. Make sure each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline for submissions. If for any reason, you cannot complete your work on time, contact your tutor for a possible extension. Extensions will not be granted after the due date unless under exceptional circumstances.

**Final Examination and Grading**

The final examination will be a test of two hours and you will be examined in all areas of the course. Find time to read the units all over before your examination. The final examination will constitute 70% of your final grade and you will be required to answer three questions.

## Course Marking Scheme

The following table lays out how the actual course mark allocation is broken down.

Assessment	Marks
Assignment 1-4 (the best four of all assignments submitted)	Four assignments, marked out of 10% totaling 30%
Final Examination	70% of overall course score
Total	100% of course score

## Presentation Schedule

The dates for the submission of all assignments will be communicated to you. You will also be told the date of completing the study units and dates for examinations.

## Course Overview and Presentation

Unit	Title of work	Weeks Activity	Assessment (End of Unit)
Course Guide	<b>NATURE OF DRAMA: CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS</b>		
<b>Module 1</b>			
Unit 1	Drama as a Genre of Literature	Week 1	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Origin and Functions of Drama	Week 2	Assignment 2
Unit 3	Elements of Drama: Imitation	Week 3	Assignment 3
Unit 4	Elements of Drama: Plot	Week 3	Assignment 4
Unit 5	Elements of Drama: Action	Week 4	Assignment 5
Unit 6	Elements of Drama: Dialogue	Week 4	Assignment 6
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>CONVENTIONS AND TECHNIQUES</b>		
Unit 1	Dramatic Technique: Characterization	Week 5	Assignment 1
Unit 2	Dramatic Technique: Foreshadowing, Setting, Planting, Flashback etc.	Week 5	Assignment 2
Unit 3	Dramatic Conventions	Week 6	Assignment 3

<b>Module 3</b>	<b>FORMS/ TYPES</b>		
Unit 1	Tragedy, Comedy, Tragi-Comedy, Melodrama, Farce	Week 7	Assignment 1
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>TEXTUAL ANALYSIS I</b>		
Unit 1	Analysis of Texts	Week 8	Assignment 1
Unit 2	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> by Sophocles	Week 9	Assignment 2
Unit 3	<i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare	Week 10	Assignment 3
Unit 4	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller	Week 11	Assignment 4
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>TEXTUAL ANALYSIS II</b>		
Unit 1	<i>Song of a Goat</i> by J.P.Clark	Week 12	Assignment 1
Unit 2	<i>Arms and the Man</i> by George Bernard Shaw	Week 13	Assignment 2
Unit 3	<i>The Marriage of Anansewa</i> by Efuwa Sutherland	Week 14	Assignment 3
Unit 4	<i>The Lion and the Jewel</i> by Wole Soyinka	Week 15	Assignment 4

### How to Get the Most from this Course

You will be required to study the units on your own. However, you may arrange to meet with your tutor for tutorials on an optional basis at a study centre. Also you can organize interactive sessions with your course mates.

In distance learning, the study units replace the university lecture. This is one of the great advantages of distance learning; you can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace, and at a time and place that suits you best. Think of it as reading the lecture instead of listening to the lecturer. In the same way a lecturer might give you some reading to do, the study units tell you when to read, and which are your text materials or set books. You are provided exercises to do at appropriate points, just as a lecturer might give you an in-class exercise. Each of the study units follows a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit, and how a particular unit is integrated with the other units and the course as a whole. Next to this is a set of learning objectives. These objectives let you know what you should be able to do by the time you have completed the unit. These learning objectives are meant to guide your study. The moment a unit is finished,

you must go back and check whether you have achieved the objectives. If this is made a habit, then you will significantly improve your chances of passing the course. The main body of the unit guides you through the required reading from other sources. This will usually be either from your set books or from a Reading section. The following is a practical strategy for working through the course. If you run into any trouble, telephone your tutor. Remember that your tutor's job is to help you. When you need assistance, do not hesitate to call and ask your tutor to provide it.

- 1 Read this course guide thoroughly, it is your first assignment.
- 2 Organise a study schedule. Design a 'Course Overview' to guide you through the Course. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to the units. Important information, e.g. details of your tutorials, and the date of the first day of the semester is available from the study centre. You need to gather all the information into one place, such as your diary or a wall calendar. Whatever method you choose to use, you should decide on and write in your own dates and schedule of work for each unit.
- 3 Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything to stay faithful to it. The major reason that students fail is that they get behind with their course work. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please, let your tutor know before it is too late for help.
- 4 Turn to Unit 1, and read the introduction and the objectives for the unit.
- 5 Assemble the study materials. You will need your set books and the unit you are studying at any point in time.
- 6 Work through the unit. As you work through the unit, you will know what sources to consult for further information.
- 7 Keep in touch with your study centre. Up-to-date course information will be continuously available there.
- 8 Well before the relevant due dates (about 4 weeks before due dates), keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing the assignment carefully. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the examination. Submit all assignments not later than the due date.
- 9 Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study materials or consult your tutor.
- 10 When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives, you can start on the next unit. Proceed unit by unit through the course and try to pace your study so that you keep yourself on schedule.
- 11 When you have submitted an assignment to your tutor for marking, do not wait for its return before starting on the next unit. Keep to

your schedule. When the Assignment is returned, pay particular attention to your tutor's comments, both on the tutor-marked assignment form and also the written comments on the ordinary assignments.

- 12 After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in the Course Guide).

## **Tutors and Tutorials**

Information relating to the tutorials will be provided at the appropriate time. Your tutor will mark and comment on your assignments, keep a close watch on your progress and on any other difficulties you might encounter and provide assistance to you during the course. You must take your tutor marked assignments to the study centre well before the due date (at least two working days are required). They will be marked by your tutor and returned to you as soon as possible.

Do not hesitate to contact your tutor if you need help. Contact your tutor if: you do not understand any part of the study units or the assigned readings; you have difficulty with the exercises; you have a question or problem with an assignment, with your tutor's comment on an assignment. You should try your best to attend the tutorials. This is the only chance to have face-face contact with your tutor and ask questions which are answered instantly. You can raise any problem encountered in the course of your study. To gain the maximum benefit from course tutorials, prepare a question list before attending them. You will learn a lot from participating in discussions actively.

## **Summary**

The course guide gives you an overview of what to expect in the course of this study. The course teaches you the concept of drama, its origins, its elements, the basic techniques and how these techniques are applied in textual analysis. It also acquaints you with dramatic conventions, how to analyze plays. Finally in this course, you will read seven plays.

We wish you success in the course and hope that you will find it both interesting and useful.