**SESSION SPRING 2024**

**PROGRAM MASTER OF ARTS (MA) - ENGLISH**

**SEMESTER I**

**COURSE CODE & NAME MAEC101– DRAMA I CREDITS 4**

**Assignment Set – 1ST**

**Questions**

**1. Discuss the representation of society in The Rivals?**

**Ans:** "The Rivals" by Richard Brinsley Sheridan is a classic comedy of manners that offers a satirical portrayal of late 18th-century British society. Through its colourful characters, witty dialogue, and intricate plot, the play provides a humorous yet incisive commentary on the social norms, values, and foibles of the time.

**Class and Social Hierarchy: "The Rivals" depicts a society stratified by class and social status, where distinctions of birth, wealth, and reputation are paramount.**

**Characters** like Sir Anthony Absolute and Mrs. Malaprop are obsessed with maintaining

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**2. Is King Lear a Tragedy? Justify your answer.**

**Ans:Yes, "King Lear" is widely considered to be a tragedy, and there are several key elements within the play that justify this classification:**

**Tragic Hero:** King Lear himself fits the archetype of the tragic hero. He is a figure of high rank and status, possessing noble qualities such as wisdom and authority.

**However,** Lear's tragic flaw, his hubris and inability to see beyond his own pride, leads to his downfall. His journey from power to madness and eventual death is central to the tragic

**3. What is Comedy of Humours? Elaborate with reference to Volpone.**

**Ans:The Comedy of Humours** is a genre of comedy popularized in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, particularly by English playwrights such as Ben Jonson. It is characterized by its focus on exaggerated characters who embody specific traits or "humours," representing different aspects of human behaviour or personality. These characters often find themselves

**Assignment Set – 2ND**

**Questions**

**4. Analyse the character of Tamburlaine in Marlowe’s play.**

**Ans:** The character of Tamburlaine in Christopher Marlowe’s play "Tamburlaine the Great" is a towering figure of ambition, power, and ruthlessness. Tamburlaine, also known as Timur or Tamerlane, is a shepherd who rises from humble origins to become a conqueror of vast territories, embodying the archetype of the Renaissance "overreacher" or "superman."

**Ambition and Hubris:** Tamburlaine's defining characteristic is his boundless ambition. From the outset of the play, he declares his intention to conquer the world and achieve immortality

**5. Summarise the role of the characters Flamineo and Vittoria in The White Devil.**

**Ans:Tamburlaine, the protagonist of Christopher Marlowe’s "Tamburlaine the Great," is a complex and compelling character whose actions and motivations drive the plot of the play.**

**Here's a detailed analysis of his character:**

**Ambition and Power:**

Tamburlaine is characterized by his insatiable ambition and hunger for power. He starts as a lowly shepherd but rises to become a mighty conqueror, driven by his desire to carve out an empire for himself. His ambition knows no bounds, and he is willing to use any means

**6. “The characters Hieronimo and Bel-Imperia are central to the narrative of the Play”. Elaborate.**

**Ans:** Absolutely, in Thomas Kyd's play "The Spanish Tragedy," both Hieronimo and Bel-Imperia are central figures whose actions and motivations drive the narrative forward.

**Let's delve into their significance:**

**Hieronimo:**

**Tragic Hero:** Hieronimo is the tragic hero of the play. His grief over the murder of his son, Horatio, propels him into a quest for vengeance that ultimately consumes him. As the play progresses, Hieronimo’s descent into madness and obsession with revenge become increasingly pronounced, leading to tragic consequences for himself and those around him.

**Moral Complexity:** Hieronimo is not a one-dimensional character but rather a complex figure grappling with moral dilemmas and conflicting emotions. While he is initially depicted as a grieving father seeking justice for his son's murder, his actions become increasingly morally questionable as the play unfolds.

Hieronimo's descent into madness blurs the lines between justice and revenge, highlighting the destructive power of unchecked rage and obsession.

**Symbol of Justice and Revenge:** Hieronimo's quest for vengeance serves as a powerful symbol of justice and revenge. His actions reflect the broader themes of justice and retribution that permeate the play, as well as the cyclical nature of violence and revenge. Hieronimo's tragic fate underscores the moral ambiguity of revenge and the devastating consequences it can have on both individuals and society as a whole.

**Bel-Imperia:** Central Love Interest: Bel-Imperia plays a central role in the play as the object of desire for several male characters, including Hieronimo's son, Horatio, and the Prince of Portugal. Her beauty and charm make her a coveted prize, and her relationships with the male characters drive much of the dramatic action in the play.

**Agency and Independence:** Despite being objectified and pursued by the male characters, Bel-Imperia exhibits agency and independence throughout the play. She is not merely a passive object of desire but an active participant in the unfolding events, making her own choices and asserting her own desires. Bel-Imperia's refusals to be controlled by the men around her and her determination to chart her own course make her a compelling and dynamic character.

**Tragic Victim:** Like Hieronimo, Bel-Imperia is ultimately a tragic figure whose fate is shaped by the actions of others. Her love for Horatio and her desire for revenge against his murderers propel her into a cycle of violence and betrayal that culminates in her own tragic demise. Bel-Imperia's tragic fate serves as a stark reminder of the destructive power of passion and the inevitability of tragedy in a world consumed by violence and revenge.

In summary, both Hieronimo and Bel-Imperia are central to the narrative of "The Spanish Tragedy," driving the plot forward through their actions, motivations, and relationships. Hieronimo's quest for vengeance and Bel-Imperia's tragic love story serve as powerful catalysts for the dramatic events that unfold, making them indispensable to the play's overarching themes of justice, revenge, and tragedy.