

Department of English
M.A. English – IVth Semester
Course Code: MENG 403 (DSC)
Course Title: American Drama (ii)
Total Marks: 20

Important Instruction:

All students are required to prepare **three assignments separately**. These assignments are **compulsory** and must be submitted **within the given time frame**; otherwise, the **admit cards for the semester examination will not be issued**. Each answer must be **handwritten** and approximately **250 words** in length. Students must attempt **any two questions** from each assignment. A sample of the title page is also attached.

Assignment – I

Maximum Marks – 07

($3.5 \times 2 = 7$)

1. What are Eugene O'Neill's major thematic concerns in his plays?
2. Discuss the role of desire, betrayal, and redemption in Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms*, focusing on the motivations and actions of the main characters.
3. How are the themes of desire, betrayal, and redemption developed in *Desire Under the Elms*?
4. Analyse the character development of Eben Cabot throughout the play. How do his emotions and motivations evolve, and what drives his actions?

Assignment – II

Maximum Marks – 07

($3.5 \times 2 = 7$)

5. How does Tennessee Williams utilize symbolism—particularly the fire escape—in Scene I of *The Glass Menagerie* to convey themes of entrapment and escape?
6. Write an essay on Amanda's strengths and weaknesses. Is she an admirable person or merely a silly, frustrated woman?
7. How does Arthur Miller explore the theme of the American Dream in *Death of a Salesman*?
8. Examine how the dream technique used by Miller in *Death of a Salesman* enhances the tragic effect of the play.

Assignment – III

Maximum Marks – 06

($3 \times 2 = 6$)

9. How does the title *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, referencing the nursery rhyme "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" serve as a metaphor for the characters' internal fears and insecurities?
10. How does *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* depict non-communication among characters?
11. What commentary does Edward Albee make about the American Dream through the characters of George and Martha?
12. How does Honey's transformation throughout the night—from childlike behaviour to a sudden desire for motherhood—reflect the underlying themes and tensions in the play?

Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla Centre for Distance and Online

Learning

MA(English).....Sem.

Session.....

Assignment Subject:.....

Course Code:

Assignment No.....

Submitted by:

Name:.....

Registration No.....

Roll No.....

Address.....

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Email id.....

Contact No.....Date:.....

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Signature.....

Submitted to.....