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COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA (ELS 140)

DISCUSS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL DRAMA AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA

Medieval drama was therefore, preceded by Greek and Roman drama and followed by the Elizabethan drama, medieval drama arose from the ashes of Roman drama before it evolved into medieval drama, the beginning of medieval drama is, therefore, traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic characteristics. The stage contraptions of medieval drama seemed wholly geared towards the peculiarities of certain church celebrations. Obviously, with the drama leaving the church, the curve towards the Renaissance drama started.

Medieval drama is refers to the theatrical performance in the period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century A.D. The term renaissance drama is used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievements. Is a French word which means the period of rebirth, the beginning of renaissance in approximately the 15th century A.D.? The term middle age was used by historians in the 15th and 16th centuries. The culture at that time was similar to that of ancient Rome and Greece but different from the time between the fall of Rome and that time. This period was later replaced by the renaissance period and has been describe as a period of rebirth where ancient techniques were revived and new ones developed leading to more success in the art industry. medieval drama was mainly religious, the mystery plays which told stories from the bible and miracle plays which told stories from the lives of saint. These were very

popular forms of drama, normally performed by member of the medieval guild. The renaissance drama grew out of the established medieval tradition of the mystery and morality plays, the renaissance drama takes place at different times in different countries. Renaissance is a French term word which means rebirth, the period is characterized cultural rebirth among English elite of classical learning, a rediscovery of ancient Greek and roman authors. In medieval drama people seems to focus mainly on the church, God and the afterlife; during the Renaissance, the focus was more secular humans and life on earth. Medieval drama pays much attention on morality, yet certain elements have been transported into English plays during the renaissance in the course of adoption. In this sense, medieval drama is religious presented as mystery, miracle as well as morality plays in which the message is central to Christian beliefs in salvation. It is based on the idea that human being has the ability to choose the good and bad that will determine their life in the hereafter. Life is believed to be of two kinds, the external and the earthly. God, Satan and soul lives in the external or the transcendental which unlike here on earth; there is no beginning or end. So, our life on earth is just an interlude in which everyman will use his little time to make this choice. Renaissance was a period where knowledge is a powerful tool in explaining the universe. Many discoveries were made during this period. America was discovered by Columbus, another theory of earth rotation was introduced by Nicolas Copernicus that challenged the Ptolemaic planetary theory of the solar system which held the view that the earth was at the center of the universe with the sun, moon, stars, and other planets revolving around it. Then Galileo also came up with his theory about the globe pattern that contradicted the explanation expounded by the church. In medieval times, people seemed to focus mainly in church, God, and the afterlife whereas during the Renaissance they focus more on secular human and life on earth, in time of the biblical drama

enjoyed a brief revival in the 1950s, the incidents depicted were selected with an eye to popular taste and treated in the manner of historical material. Lost from these plays were the emphases on embodiment, on the incarnation, and on the affective bond with the audience. These concerns would instead be transferred to the secular stage. For Elizabethan playwrights, an anxiety about visual representation complicated the legacy from the medieval theater. O'Connell's conclusion considers the effect of the anxiety on Johnson and Shakespeare, both of whom used meta-theatrical devices to reflect on the visual aspect of theater. The middle age was considered a period of ignorance, barbarism, and superstition. This period was called the dark ages due to the negative practice involved, but scholars saw the period differently saying that the history was a continuous process from biblical times to their time. Most of them wrote about battle, feudalism, crusades, monarchicalism, king and emperors, rise of town, universities and churches, representation of art during this period were modestly scaled with little creativity because artists did their work collectively and mainly for religious purpose. There was no competition in the art of industry and traditional techniques were used to design objects. Art was used to spread in Europe and throughout other parts of the world and was viewed as a more utilitarian object which did not have much value. The renaissance was a historical art period that led to the abandonment of the middle age practice; the artist abandoned the middle ages representations which were modestly scaled for monumental images that reflected their abilities.

In conclusion, the medieval refers to the times that mainly focus on religion, the truth is that the secular qualities of medieval drama overthrew its religion qualities and thus paved the way to the development of Renaissance drama and the renaissance period was a period of the re-examination of life. It was this state of affairs that gave rise to the spirit of humanism which is usually associated with the Renaissance age.