**Module: Drama**

**2nd Year English**

***An Inspector Calls***

J.B. Priestley

« [T]he time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish »

Inspector, Act III

**Teacher:**

Mrs Salma A. Elmokrani

**Course description:**

This course is meant to explore the work of J.B. Priestley’s *An Inspector Calls,* a sagacious crime play in which Priestley tries to show that the honest and upright treatment of citizens is likely to result into a peaceful and humane society capable of fighting back its demons of war and annihilation. This play is also an opportunity to appreciate ‘the unexpected virtue of ignorance’ since the play was written in 1944 but it is set in 1912 (two years before the outburst of the what-was-then-thought-of-as the Great War). The course examines, through a crime/morality play, the fictitious possibility of doing things differently in a world created by Priestley to criticize the political choices and the ethical responsibility of leaders who wage wars at the expense of their own impotent and at times indifferent citizens. Through a careful investigation and an unexpected elucidation of a random crime, Priestley points out at the culprit and he is everywhere.

This one hour weekly tutorial is designed for second year students who will find in the course and the play an opportunity to discover a work that plays with the notion of time and with the fragility of certainty.

**Course objectives:**

The objectives of this course are:

* To understand the relevance of the play and its modernity (playing with the notions of Time)
* To discover an original play where a crime is used as a metaphor to criticize the indifference of the society to its ailments and the consequences of such a disregard.
* To be able to discuss the different issues raised by the course in class and to be able to construct relevant coherent arguments (home assignments are also required).