



Instructor: Cary DiPietro

~ cary.dipietro@utoronto.ca

Course Number: ENG335H5S

Course Title: Drama 1603 to 1642

Course Description: In this course, we will survey English drama from the accession of James I in 1603 to the closure of the theatres in 1642. The plays to be studied will include works by Shakespeare, Jonson, Middleton, Webster and Ford. We will explore the dynamism of dramatic writing in this period by considering such features as its use and adaptation of specific dramatic genres, its staging of philosophical debates about metaphysics and ethics, and its rhetorical and linguistic invention. We will see in particular how the theatre provides a stage for issues of especial interest to early modern audiences in London such as the growth of the urban marketplace, the state regulation of marriage and sexuality, and the politics of the court.

Required Reading: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello*, *The Winter's Tale*; Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam*; Jonson, *Volpone*, *Epicene*; Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*; Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*; Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*; Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. The three plays by Shakespeare may be purchased from the UTM Bookstore in the Oxford World's Classics series as single play texts. The remaining plays will be found in David Bevington (ed.), *The Norton Anthology of English Renaissance Drama*.

First Authors to be Studied: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello*, *The Winter's Tale*.

Method of Instruction: Lecture and group discussion.

Method of Evaluation: : Participation/discussion (10%), close-reading assignments (2 x 10%), essay (30%), and final exam (40%).