

Dramaturgy elective for Spring 2010

Theater 397V:

**Seducers, Scam Artists, and Cross-Dressed Women:
Archetypal Tricksters from the Renaissance to Today**

Instructor: Harley Erdman



This dramaturgy course focuses on remarkable characters from the Renaissance stage who have exerted a fascination ever since, including Don Juan the seducer, Marta the hypocrite, and Juana the vengeance-seeking woman-in-disguise. We will look at the original plays in which these characters premiered, with particular emphasis on comedies of Golden Age Spain, and then open up to explore these ideas in plays by writers such as Moliere, Brecht, Sam Shepard, Tony Kushner, Anna Deavere Smith, and Suzan-Lori Parks. Also, we will consider opera, musicals, film, TV, and popular culture. We will read 12-15 plays and undertake projects related to the art of dramaturgy, including adaptation, text cutting, production research, and new work creation. All along, we will ask the question: How and why do dramatic texts and theatrical ideas speak to each other across time?

Time: TuTh: 1:00-2:15 (Space TBA)

SPIRE Number: 58234 (listed on SPIRE as "Stage Tricksters")

Counts toward the Dramaturgy elective as substitute for Theater 321.