

University of Colombo

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 3149 Shakespeare Studies

Two hours

Answer two questions, choosing one from Part A and one from Part B

Part A

Either

1. In *Measure for Measure*, the Duke and Angelo 'form complementary portraits of authoritarian political power that subverts opposition to it' (Jonathan Goossen). Using this statement as a starting point, critically discuss Shakespeare's representation of authority figures in *Measure for Measure*.

Or

2. Mario Digangi argues that 'the relentless definition and manipulation of female sexuality in *Measure for Measure* is the graphic symptom of male anxiety about female agency'. In light of this statement, critically explore the depiction of female sexuality in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*.

Part B

Either

1. "Richard's dazzling rhetoric employs his distinctive body to signify an array of claims, and, likewise, works to destabilize all of the bodies in the play" (Katherine Schaap Williams). Critically explore this statement about tropes of ability and disability in relation to your reading of Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Or

2. "[M]asculine aggression runs rampant in the figure of Richard, who refuses to subordinate himself to traditional patriarchal power structures and lines of succession" (Ian Frederick Moulton). Discuss this interpretation of Richard's "unruly masculinity" in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

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