



GNDR\_ST 362/ENGLISH 312 • Jeffrey Masten

## The Drama of Homosexuality

Our focus will be the homosexuality in drama, and the drama of homosexuality, in Anglo-American theatre and culture, from Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe through *Angels in America*. Thus, in one sense, the course functions as a version of a traditional "survey" course, treating "gay" male characters, authors, themes, and issues in important Anglo-American plays from the Renaissance to the present. But the syllabus is not bound by a survey course's promise of coverage and progressive chronology, and we will also be thinking, via theory, about homosexuality's "drama"—that is, the connections in this culture (at least at certain moments, at least in certain contexts) between male homosexuality and the very category of "the dramatic." The course will therefore examine the historical emergence of "homosexual" and "gay" as categories and will analyze the connection between these categories and theatrically related terms like "flamboyance," "the closet," "outing," "gender trouble," "drag," "playing," "camp," "acts," "identities," "identification," and "performativity." We will also be interested in the identificatory connections between gay men and particular dramatic genres like opera and the musical.

Harris Hall L28 • MW 3:30-4:50pm

