GS/EN 6564: REDRESSING THE CANON: SHAKESPEARE AND CONTEMPORARY DRAMA (3.0 credits)

Instructor: Elizabeth Pentland (742 Atkinson College, pent@yorku.ca)

In this seminar, which will meet weekly in the Fall term, we will explore the complexities of contemporary Shakespearean adaptation by setting three of his best-known plays—*Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *The Tempest*—in dialogue with stage and film adaptations that engage the originals from a variety of critical perspectives. Special attention will be paid to the cultural politics of producing Shakespeare in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries as we explore works that use his plays to talk about race and caste, gender, sexuality, language, authoritarianism, intergenerational trauma, and strategies of resistance or decolonization. As part of our work for this course, we will also consider some well-known film adaptations from Fred M. Wilcox's *Forbidden Planet* (1956) to Vishal Bharadwaj's *Omkara* (2006). How are Shakespeare's plays or even what some critics have called "the Shakespeare effect" problematic for contemporary actors, playwrights, and film makers, and to what extent has "Shakespeare," in the age of globalization, provided a common language or meeting ground for larger cultural or political conversations?

Evaluation
One seminar presentation (25%); one film review (20%); one 4000-word essay (40%); class participation (15%)

Tentative Reading List
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*

Tom Stoppard, *Dogg's Hamlet / Cahoot's Macbeth*
Heiner Müller, *Hamletmachine*
Sulayman Al Bassam, *The Al-Hamlet Summit*
Yves Sioui Durand, *Mesnak* (film)

Paula Vogel, *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief*
Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*
Vishal Bharadwaj, *Omkara* (film)
Lolita Chakrabarti, *Red Velvet*
Keith Hamilton Cobb, *American Moor*

Fred M. Wilcox, *Forbidden Planet* (film)
Aimé Césaire, *A Tempest*
Philip Osment, *This Island's Mine*
Hank Rogerson, *Shakespeare Behind Bars* (film)

Cliff Cardinal, *As You Like It: A Radical Retelling*

Selected critical works (TBA).