Shakespeare’s plays prompt readers and audiences to recognize the deception involved in performing a role on the stage or in our daily lives. If “All the world’s a stage/ And all the men and women merely players,” is identity an illusion? What do costumes, disguises and role playing reveal about society? We will consider how the concept of the “problem play” reveals the discomfort that modern readers and audiences experience because of characters’ disguises and duplicitous language in Shakespeare’s comedies and romances.

**Proposed Text:** We will read selections from the online *Internet Editions of Shakespeare* that you can access at: [https://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Foyer/Texts/index.html](https://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Foyer/Texts/index.html)

We will focus on the following plays:

- *All’s Well that Ends Well*
- *As You Like It*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
- *The Tempest*
- *Twelfth Night*
- *The Winter’s Tale*

**Proposed Assignments:**

- Four 500 word discussion papers (60%)
- One 1500 word Research Portfolio (40%)