



HOSTS

CLASSIC CORE TEXTS AND
CITIZENSHIP IN AMERICA:

SHAKESPEARE & THOMAS MORE ON LAW & CITIZENSHIP

Friday-Saturday, 5-6 November 2010

Major Focus

Thomas More and Shakespeare both began their literary careers wrestling with the “sickness” of civil war in England. Shakespeare knew well More’s *History of Richard III*, a history that is rich in allusions to Greeks and Romans who investigated the nature and causes of civil war. They, like the American Founders, all agreed that “faction” is a major cause. What solutions do More and Shakespeare suggest for those who are “first” or leading citizens in such trying conditions? What skills and virtues do these leading citizens need? What role does law play? Why does Shakespeare have one of his characters insist that “first, kill all the lawyers”?

Texts

Thomas More’s *History of King Richard III*

Shakespeare’s *History of King Henry VI.3* (depicting the height of England’s civil war)

Shakespeare’s *Tragedy of Richard III* (a play seen frequently in the early years of the United States)

Shakespeare’s *History of King Henry VIII* (Shakespeare’s last play; Thomas More is a character)

Shakespeare, Munday, et al’s *Sir Thomas More* (a collaborative work of 5 London playwrights)

Major Lecturer and Seminar Participant

Dr. Robert S. Miola, Professor of English and Professor of Classics at Loyola College in Maryland

Among his publications are *Shakespeare’s Rome* (Cambridge UP, 2004), *Shakespeare’s Reading* (Oxford UP, 2000), *Shakespeare and Classical Comedy: The Influence of Plautus and Terence* (1997), *Shakespeare and Classical Tragedy: The Influence of Seneca* (1992); and editor of *Much Ado about Nothing* (Barnes & Noble, 2007), *Measure for Measure* (Apprentice House, 2007), *Macbeth* (Norton Critical Edition, 2003), *A Comedy of Errors: Critical Essays* (1997).

Friday, November 5, 2010

4:00—5:30 Dr. Gerard Wegemer, Citizenship, Law, & Self-Government: What More Taught Shakespeare
7:30—9:00 p.m. Plenary Address: Dr. Robert Miola, *Book of Sir Thomas More* and *Henry VIII*

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9:00 a.m.—10:30: Seminar for paper presenters: More’s *History of Richard III* and Shakespeare’s First Tetralogy, esp. *The Tragedy of King Richard the Third*

11—12:30 p.m.: Dr. John Alvis, Citizenship & Law in Shakespeare’s First Tetralogy & in *Sir Thomas More*

2:30—4:00 p.m. Seminar for paper presenters: Shakespeare and Fletcher’s *Henry VIII*; *Sir Thomas More*

4:30—5:30 p.m. Panel: Final Thoughts and New Directions: Alvis, Miola, Wegemer

7:30 Performance of Shakespeare’s Addition to *Sir Thomas More*