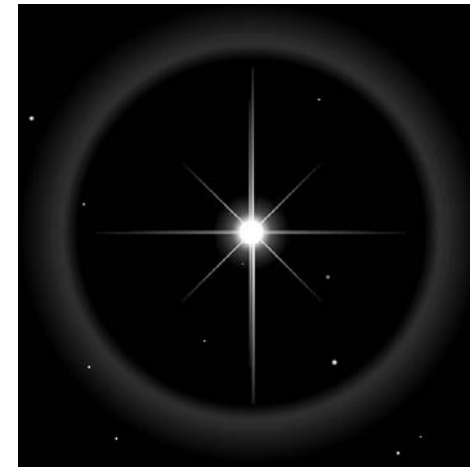


The first two acts of *Measure for Measure* explore the tension between justice and mercy. The confrontation (which is most intense in the debate between Angelo and Isabella in Act II, scene ii), is posed more generally in the contrast between the overly lax administration of the Duke up to the opening of the play and Angelo's excessively strict regime afterwards. Similar tension exists between excessive lewdness and libertinism in Viennese life and excessive chastity in the cloister.

Scholars and directors now lean toward dark interpretations of the play, in which the tensions surrounding the administration of both law and sexuality go unresolved. But the play is best understood as a comedy, ending with a proper balance between justice and mercy and a happy marriage between the Duke and Isabella.

2006-2007 Polaris Lecture Series



2ND ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE LECTURE

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Sex, Chastity,  
Marriage, Justice,  
Mercy, Corruption:  
*Is Measure for  
Measure a Comedy?*

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*“A university should be a  
place of light, of liberty, and  
of learning.”*  
—Benjamin Disraeli, 1873

March 8, 2007

**UPCOMING POLARIS LECTURES, SPRING 2007**

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES

The Command of Our Own Fortunes: George Washington and the Challenge of Founding

What was it about Washington, the least educated and the most action-oriented of the Founding generation, that made him—and not Jefferson, not Madison, not Hamilton—the Father of his Country?

Matthew Spalding, Director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies, the Heritage Foundation  
**Thursday, March 29, 7:30 p.m., Consortium Library, Room 307**

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THE POLARIS LECTURES, named for the North Star on Alaska's flag, address a wide range of subjects in the liberal arts. The series began in the 1980s to commemorate the bicentenary of the American Constitution. The 2006-2007 Polaris Lecture program offers a dozen lectures to students, faculty, staff, and the interested public: six in the fall and six in the spring.

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DANIEL H. LOWENSTEIN (A.B. Yale, J.D. Harvard) has been Professor of Law at UCLA since 1979, where he teaches political theory and literature along with various legal subjects. An expert in election law with a special interest in reapportionment and the constitutionality of term limits, he served as an attorney in state government. In the 1970s he drafted the law establishing the California Fair Political Practices Commission, of which he was the first chairman. His book, *Election Law*, was published in 1995. A member of the board of the award-winning theatre troupe Interact, he is an expert on Shakespeare as well as on bribery, campaign finance, and other political and constitutional questions.



## Program

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WELCOME	David Pine '10
POLARIS LECTURES	Stephen W. Haycox
INTRODUCTION	James W. Muller
SEX, CHASTITY, MARRIAGE, JUSTICE, MERCY, CORRUPTION: IS <i>MEASURE FOR MEASURE</i> A COMEDY?	Daniel H. Lowenstein
VOTE OF THANKS	David Pine '10