An investigation of how infidelity and its aftermath are registered and regulated in a variety of cultural contexts and artistic forms. Desire, hatred, ambition, competition or perceived necessity might drive an infidelity; self-regard, marriage, hierarchies, even sanity may falter in its wake. Infidelities are often but not always sexual; those transgressions may sometimes be the least problematic of betrayals.

We begin with the Oresteia of Aeschylus, in which husbands, wives, and children of the house of Atreus commit multiple murders to answer to or retaliate for broken vows and broken oaths. We end with an Alice Munro story in which a formerly philandering husband must come to terms with his wife’s passionate relationship with a fellow dementia patient. We will read plays, novels, sonnets, and selections from a comic epic. Authors whose works we will read may include Aeschylus, Shakespeare, Mary Wroth, Wycherley, Laclos, Byron, Trollope, Graham Greene, Hawthorne, and Ford Madox Ford. This class satisfies the pre-1860 requirement.

Julia Genster
Julia.genster@tufts.edu
D+ TR 10:30 – 11:45am
What makes first-rate works of art what they are -- endless sources of pleasure, wonderment, and intellectual stimulation? Students will develop their own answers to this question through a semester-long immersion in some of the greatest masterpieces of modern American literature (both narrative and poetry).

Ichiro Takayoshi (ichiro.takayoshi@tufts.edu)

E+ MW 10:30 – 11:45am
Stand-Up Comedy as Cultural Paradigm

ENG 0192-02
Professor Joseph Litvak
Mon/Wed 10:30-11:45