Lecture on: Measure for Measure (Lecture I and II)

I. Reprise for Lorenzo and Jessica and the nature of allegory

"Allegory is a method of reading in which we are made to think about things we already know."
Rosemond Tuve

II. The "Problem Plays" or the "Dark Comedies"

Hamlet (1600)
Troilus and Cressids (1601)
All's Well That Ends Well (1602)
Measure for Measure (1604-1605)

III. Sex and Pre-contracts

A. Claudio's "rats" (I.ii. 132-134)
B. Juliet's foison" as reported by Lucio (I.i.a.40-44)
C. Angelo's "carrion" (II.ii.164-168)

IV. Measure for Measure as allegorical dramaturgy

V. The Duke leaves Vienna. I.i, I.iii, I.iv.

VI. The Duke as Tester

A. Juliet, II.iii
B. Claudia, III.i
C. Isabella
D. Lucio and Pompey, III.ii
E. Escalus
F. Act IV and the question of "heads"
G. Angelo, V.i
H. Isabella again
VII. Who is this "old fantastical Duke of dark corners"?