

## Comedy of Manners

- Witty satire
- Scandal
- Typically set in upper-class world
- Stock characters, conventional plot structure

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Plot Structure

- Exposition
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action
- Resolution

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Social Conventions in *Tartuffe*

- A father has absolute power over his daughter's marital choices
- A wife's chastity is of paramount importance to her husband
- A son's economic status depends entirely on his father

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Themes in *Tartuffe*

- The degree to which people are driven by their own obsession to be blind to the needs of others
- The absurdity of gullibility, especially in the face of religious hypocrisy and zealotry
- The notion that high social standing does not equate with high levels of intelligence

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### *Tartuffe*: Discussion Questions

1. What impression of Tartuffe (and of other characters) do you get from the first scene?
2. Why is Tartuffe's first appearance on stage so delayed?
3. Why are Orgon & Mme. Pernelle so easily seduced by Tartuffe's apparent piety?
4. How does the character of Dorine fit into the play? Do you trust her view of people?
5. Is this play in fact anti-religious, or does it only attack corruptions of religion?
6. How does Molière make this play funny?
7. What is the mother-in-law's function in the play?
8. What kinds of emotion are important in the play?
9. What role do secrets and secrecy play?
10. At what points in the play were you surprised by what happened next?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---