

**Purdue
Comparative
Literature Program
Presents**

**NIE
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**Ethical Taboos Against
His Revenge – A New
Interpretation of
Hamlet's Tragedy**

**Thursday, April 5, 2007
1:30-2:30 p.m.**

Heavilon 320

**<<http://www.cl.purdue.edu/complit/>>
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Why does Hamlet hesitate to revenge his dead father after he learns the truth of the murder? What are his problems that lead to his delay in exacting vengeance? There are some most influential arguments for the explanation we can't ignore, such as the analysis of Hamlet's weak character, the Freudian view of Hamlet's problem as one of sexual obsession with his mother, and Christian morality against revenge. However, if we attend to the dual identity of Hamlet both as a son and stepson, we can attribute his hesitation and delay to the consequence of ethical taboos against matricide, patricide, and regicide. His tragedy is that the only way he can find out of his dilemma is one that brings about his own destruction.

Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Nie Zhenzhao has been at Central China Normal University since 1992, visiting professor respectively in U. of Cambridge (1994-95) and U. of Warwick (1996-97), Director of the Institute of British-American Literature and Comparative Studies at CCNU. He is also Vice-President of China Foreign Literature Association, founder of ethical literary criticism in China, and Chief Editor of *Foreign Literature Studies*. His research is primarily in British novels in 19th-century, theory of poetic forms, literary theory, and history of Western literature. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of a number of books relevant to these areas of inquiry, including *Thomas Hardy: A Critical Study of His Novels* (1992), *20th Century Western Literature* (ed. 200.), *A History of Foreign Literature* (ed. 4 vols. 2004), *An Introduction to English Verse Rhythm* (2006), *An Ethical Study of English Literature* (ed. 2007).

