**Final Assignments: ENAM/GSFS 419, Fall 2019**

**Presentations**

I intend the presentations to help us synthesize and bring into focus the themes and ideas we’ve studied in the class, and to act as preparation time or scaffolding for your final papers. Presentations (15 minutes, or 5 minutes per group member) will usually occur in groups of 2 or 3, mostly in the last 2 weeks of class. The goal here is to extend the discussion of the themes and issues we have discussed in these early modern plays to contemporary examples—in just the way Mary Beard does in her essay “Women in Power.”

Choose a topic that fits with the day’s reading (e.g., “Hating Hillary”), and relate it creatively to the themes and readings we have done in the class. Your presentations should include:

\*Detailed discussion of a particular passage from the reading or video segment.

\*Bring this back to a particular theme or idea we discussed in relation to the plays—clarify which play/passage is most relevant here.

\*Which critical/theoretical reading helps with analysis of your material?

\*Questions for the class.

Relevant themes include but are not limited to: powerful/ambivalent maternity; the female tongue/mouth; anxious masculinity/rage; female anger and “witchy” power; gender and the public sphere (especially the political sphere); fear and hatred of powerful women; representations of race and power; performativity in all its forms, esp. in relation to gender/speech.

If you have material that you think is relevant but isn’t included in these last two weeks, please talk to me and we can try to fit it in. If the presentations diverge from the material currently on the syllabus, we can alter the readings to make room for the presentations. Before the end of the week I will post a google doc with opportunities to sign up for presentation slots in groups during the last two weeks.

**Final Paper: Due Wednesday, Dec. 11th.**

Your final paper should be around 10 pages and may draw substantially on material you work on for the presentation. This paper may be:

* a comparative research paper focusing on two or three of the plays we have read, including at least one from the second half of the semester; OR
* an analysis that brings one or two plays from the second half of the semester into substantial conversation with the contemporary material we will study at the end of the class; OR
* a hybrid paper that includes personal narrative in relation to discussion of one or more of the plays from the second half of the semester.

Each version of the final paper should include some secondary research, including theoretical and/or critical treatment of our central themes. You may draw on the secondary material we have used in class but should also include reference to at least *one* outside source that you have researched yourself. I am happy to assist with bibliographical suggestions. Everyone should plan to meet with me in the next 2-3 weeks to discuss their plans for the final paper, and any questions that came up in the first paper as well.