En 115: Shakespeare's Contemporaries
Spring 2014
George Pigman

Requirements and Procedures

By the morning of each class you must send me by email (gwp@hss.caltech.edu) a question on the reading. I will choose one of the questions for a short quiz, which will take place at the beginning of class.

You must write two papers, each 2,000 words long. I will suggest topics but encourage you to choose your own. If you do choose one, you must send me a short paragraph stating your thesis or at least describing your topic a week before the paper is due. The first paper is due May 2 at 11:59 pm; the second, June 11 at 5 pm. You need to follow the MLA citation style (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/). Please send me the papers as email attachments (Microsoft Word, OpenOffice/LibreOffice, or LATEX); name the files with your surname and the number of the paper (e.g. smith1.docx). If you'd like me to read a draft of your paper before submitting it to be graded, I'll try to do so provided that you submit it early enough. I grant extensions but may not comment on late papers; if I'm short on time, I only grade them.

Two-thirds of your grade will be based on the papers, and the other third on the quizzes and class participation. The course may only be taken for grades.

If you wish to bring laptop computers, tablets, etc. to class, please send me an email promising to use them only for classwork. I consider using them, while in class, for email, chatting, surfing, etc. a violation of the Caltech honor code.

The easiest way to communicate with me is by email, but I am happy to speak to you in person or on the phone. My office is 208 Dabney, and my extension, 3601.

Required Text

English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology, ed. David Bevington, Lars Engle, Katharine Eisaman Maus, and Eric Rasmussen (New York: Norton, 2002).

Writing Matters

Caltech's Hixon Writing Center, located on the north end of the 3rd floor of the Center for Student Services, offers a number of resources that you may find useful for supporting your writing in this class, including tutorial support that allows you to discuss a work-in-progress with a professional or peer tutor. You can learn more about the location of the Hixon Writing Center, how to make an appointment with a tutor, and about their other resources on their website (http://writing.caltech.edu).

Plagiarism is a serious offense against the Caltech honor code and against the scholarly community at large; you should become thoroughly familiar with the Hixon Writing Center's "Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism" (https://www.writing.caltech.edu/students/plagiarism).

Collaboration Policy

All academic writers commonly work with others to improve their writing. There are several roles that others might serve for academic writers. Co-authors are the people who help an author create a work by generating original language, developing key ideas, gathering data, or refining methods. As a result, all co-authors' names appear on the final text of the work. Reviewers read and make suggestions toward the improvement of a piece of writing, usually in the form of marginal comments, endnotes, or conversations that explain their impressions of the strengths and limits of the draft. The author is then left to figure out how to make revisions in response to that feedback. Editors differ from reviewers in that they offer much more direction about what must be done to improve a text, and they often will generate specific language that is then incorporated into the text.

For this class your collaboration with others must be limited to reviewing. You should seek out trusted reviewers for your writing, including peers inside the class, friends outside the class, and the tutors in the Hixon Writing Center. Listen critically to their thoughts about your work-in-progress. Decide how useful their feedback seems, and figure out how you will use their comments to improve your work. You cannot, however, ask or allow anyone to co-author or edit your essay; no one but you can generate new language or make decisions about how to reorganize or otherwise change the essay.

You are not allowed to collaborate with professional co-authors, reviewers, or editors outside of Caltech who are remunerated for their work on your writing.

If you find yourself in a gray area, tell me your concerns before submitting your essay so that we can work through them together. If overcollaboration is discovered after the essay is submitted, it will be referred to the Board of Control.

Schedule

April 1–9	Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy.*
3 April 8–10	Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine*, Part I.
April 15–17	Anonymous, *Arden of Faversham*
April 22–24	Ben Jonson, *Volpone.*
April 29–May 1	Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist.*
May 6–8	Thomas Middleton (?), *The Revenger's Tragedy.*
May 13–15	Thomas Middleton, *Women Beware Women.*
May 20–2	John Webster, *The White Devil.*
May 29	John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi.*
June 3–5	John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore.*