Assignment 4
Tori White

<u>Final Paper Project</u>

Your final paper for this course will build upon the close reading practice, archival experience, and collaborative research that you now have under your belt. The finished product will be a paper of **2,000-3,000 words** (approximately 7-10 pages, double-spaced) that presents a **thesis-governed argument** about your Special Collections text as both a poetic work and a material artifact. If you have an idea for a paper topic that is related to but not exclusively about the Special Collections text that you worked on with your group, please consult with me immediately. This paper should build on the research you did for the presentation, **citing at least six primary and/or secondary sources** related to early modern material culture, early modern lyric poetry, or (preferably) both.
A series of smaller, scaffolded assignments will build up to the finished product. All together, this assignment sequence is worth 35% of your final grade for the course (Outline 5%, 2 Peer Review Letters 5%, Final Draft 25%).

Part I: Outline

Provide an outline of your paper which:
- contains a draft of your intro with your <u>working thesis statement underlined</u>
- provides a topic sentence for each body paragraph
- lists, paragraph by paragraph, the evidence you plan to cite (textual or visual) and the scholarly arguments with which you plan to engage
- includes a works cited page consisting of at least three scholarly sources

This outline should effectively walk me through the structure of your argument, listing its components. What are you working with? What worthwhile questions are you asking? How are you organizing your ideas? How do you plan to position yourself in relation to the scholarship on your topic, and what do you hope to add to the conversation? Your outline should aim to provide answers to these questions.
This outline is worth 5% of your final grade for the course and is **due by 11:55 pm on Week 8b**, submitted to Smartsite "Assignments."

Part II: Paper Draft

Upload a robust draft of your paper to Smartsite "Resources" ("Paper Project" folder) **by 11:55 pm on Week 9b**. The stronger and more complete this draft is, the more you will get out of the peer review process. Use this format for naming your draft file:
                    YourLastName-YourFirstName_draft_MM-DD

Part III: Feedback Letters

Read the drafts of the two people alphabetically after you (if you are at the end of the alphabet, loop back up to the top of the list).

For each paper that you read, compose a letter to the paper's author. **These feedback letters should *each* be *at least* 400-500 words long** and you should use them to do **all** of the following:

1. Start by saying what you found interesting about this paper. What did you learn, or what surprised you? What are you still thinking about now that you've put the paper down?

2. Let the writer know what his/her **top two strengths** are. Refer to the grading rubric (Appendix A, below), be specific, and don't be skimpy: everyone deserves to know what they're doing well.

3. Tell the writer what you think are the **top two categories for revision**. Remember that there is a hierarchy of rhetorical concerns; the quality of the argument is the highest concern, while mechanics are of least concern (and are most subject to change during the revision process). That said, if the writer has a blind spot (making the same mistakes again and again) please do let them know. Use the language from the grading rubric as you describe what could make the paper stronger, offering specific suggestions whenever possible.

Overall, be honest but not harsh. Be a careful and attentive reader but not the paper police. When offering constructive criticism, strive for sincerity and for the tone of the reliable friend who is telling you that your fly is down.

Together, the two feedback letters are worth 5% of your final grade for the course, and they must be submitted to Smartsite ("Resources"—>"Paper Project" folder) **as soon as they are ready and not later than 11:55 pm on Week 10b**. Use this format for naming your draft file:

YourLastName-YourFirstName_PeerResponseToPeerLastName_MM-DD

If I was responding to Ilona Bell's paper, my letter would have this file name:

White-Tori_PeerResponsetoBell_MM-DD

Part IV: The Final Draft

Submit your final draft to Smartsite "Assignments" by 5:00 pm on the due date (during finals week, TBD). It is worth 25% of your final grade for the course.

See the grading rubric for the assessment criteria (Appendix A), and use this format for naming your file:

YourLastName-YourFirstName_FinalDraft_MM-DD

Appendix A:
Grading Rubric for the Final Draft of the Term Paper

Criterion	Description
Completeness	- The paper is 2,000-3,000 words long - It cites at least six primary and/or secondary sources related to early modern material culture, early modern lyric poetry, or both - It presents a thesis-governed argument about or related to a text from UCD's Special Collections
Revision	It thoroughly responds to and incorporates feedback given on the draft
Research	- It is grounded in the ongoing scholarly conversations on its topic - It constitutes original research on the topic, adding something new to the conversation
Argument	- The argument is stated clearly and forcefully in the introduction - The paper clearly explains how sub-claims are related to the main argument (or thesis), and said sub-claims are well supported by research-based evidence - The argument engages both of the overarching themes of the course (Renaissance lyric and material culture), deploying the critical vocabulary of the course where appropriate
Organization	- Each paragraph is tightly focused, addressing one main point - Topic sentences and transitions are identifiable and effective - Ideas follow each other logically, with the connections between ideas explained
Style	- The prose is clear, concise, and elegant - Words are chosen for their precise meanings
Professionalism	- The paper is free (or very nearly free) of mechanical errors, spelling mistakes, and typos - The in-text citations and works cited page follow MLA format - It is uploaded to SmartSite correctly and on time - It uses the formatting guidelines specified in the syllabus - The file is named according the file naming conventions described in the syllabus