English 2303 **Dr. Timothy Richardson**
Pop Culture in Contemporary Poetry Office Hours: MTW 12-1pm @ 424 Carlisle Hall
http://blog.uta.edu/~timothyr trichardson@uta.edu

Texts:
1. *Universal Monsters*, Brian Dietrich
2. *Kinky*, Denise Duhamel
3. *Monster Zero*, Jay Snodgrass
4. *Hurdy Gurdy*, Tim Seibles
5. Various works available in class or online

Overview: While primarily a literature course intended to investigate the place and purpose of poetry, this course also assumes that poetry needn't necessarily draw from a (learned or received) past. Fine, engaging poetry may also find its material in what we all already (think we) know. For this reason, all of the poems we will read this session appeal in some manner to popular (some might call it low, but not us) culture in order to say something, if not new, then hopefully useful. Class time will be filled by discussions of the reading, in-class writing exercises, (possibly) quizzes, and exams. Attendance is very important.

Outcomes:
- Learn formal attributes of poetry and be able to recognize their uses.
- Develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting poetry.
- Recognize and synthesize multiple interpretations of both single poems and books of poetry.
- Apply different and appropriate critical frameworks to the analysis of poetry.

Exams: There will be two exams covering material discussed in class and the traditional formal attributes of poetry.

In-Class Writing: Students are responsible for engaging in all in-class work with vigor and enthusiasm (this last may be faked). Keep all assignments together (in a folder, perhaps) to turn in at the end of the semester.

Papers The two papers of the course are 5-7 page explorations of both *Universal Monsters* and *Hurdy Gurdy*.

Reading Journal: Students are required to maintain a notebook in which brief summaries and/or responses to the assigned readings (as well as any specific questions) are kept. With exception of periodic checks, I will not read your notebook closely until the end of the semester. Primarily, it is intended as a learning tool in which you may respond to the reading and/or class at any time. Keeping up with the reading journal is advised, as it is part of your grade. Be sure to respond in your journal **before** we discuss the work in class and **always use complete sentences**.

Grades: Your grade is based on the following point system:

100 points	Exams (2X50)
20 points	Reading journal
20 points	Essay (2X10)
10 points	Project writing
40 points	Attendance (0-1 absences receives 40 points, 2 gets 20 points, 3 gets 0 points) (I will take attendance both at the beginning of class and after the break; missing either means missing the day)

190 points total, so:

171-190 points total: A
152-170 points total: B
133-151 points total: C
114-132 points total: D
113 points and below: F

Policies: I will not accept papers or assignments at any time other than at their assigned times unless arrangements have been made with me in advance. In case of illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

All out-of-class work must be typed and double-spaced. Use basic fonts, no larger than 12 pt. Margins should be one inch all around. Titles are mandatory and fun. Be original and inventive. Peer Reviews must also be typed. Do not use plastic binders or notebooks to enclose your essays. Staples are best. Always, always keep an extra copy of your work.

Plagiarism of any kind will result in immediate failure.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

The following schedule is subject to change:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DEC 19-22	Course Intro; in-class Poetic Form	Poetic Form Film	Snodgrass In-class writing	Snodgrass Duhamel	NO CLASS
JAN 02-06	**Reading Journal due** Duhamel Film	**Exam #1** various poems	**Essay #1 due** Dietrich In-class writing	Dietrich In-class writing	NO CLASS
JAN 10-13	**Essay #2 due** Seibles In-class writing	**Project writing due** Seibles various poems	**Exam #2**		