

**English 3371**

Expository Writing

<http://blog.uta.edu/~timothytr/>**Dr. Timothy Richardson**

Office Hours: MW 1-3 pm @ 424 Carlisle Hall

[trichardson@uta.edu](mailto:trichardson@uta.edu)

- Texts:**
1. *On Dreams: The Standard Edition*
  2. *The Crying of Lot 49*
  3. Essay packet

**Overview:** As human beings, language is *the thing* that structures our lives. As human beings, we have an elaborate system of communication called culture. This course will begin to expose language as it shapes us and the culture/literature sprung from our social nature. The goal is that we may better understand what it means to be human beings in the US right now via explorations of and expositions on particular representative artifacts. Class sessions will include lecture, discussion, workshops, peer groups, and presentations. By the end of the course you will have compiled a portfolio of two essays, four summary/response papers, and a reading journal.

**Cultural Artifact:** You should choose an "artifact" (a film, book, piece of art or architecture, comic book series, etc.) by the second week of class that seems somehow to comment upon or indicate something about our culture here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The artifact is up to you, but should be complex enough to sustain constant attention from many different directions. By the end of the course, you will have written one shorter investigation (5+ pages) and a final longer (and hopefully interesting) research essay investigating your artifact.

**Summary/Response:** Each Summary/Response paper (there are 4 total) may be no longer than one page. The font must be no smaller than 10pt. Margins are optional. The first portion of the page should be a summary of the chosen reading with appropriate citations. The second portion should be a singular response to the reading in terms of your chosen "cultural artifact" which may rely on class discussion but should primarily depend on your own understanding and response. This means don't just write what you heard in class; offer something new to the discussion or expand on a minor point.

**Literature Paper:** The last paper of the course is a (6-10 page) research exploration of a short novel, collection of short stories, or poetry collection. You should choose your topic early in the semester, but must have the subject approved by me by October 16.

**Reading Journal:** Students are required to maintain a notebook in which responses to the assigned readings not used for the Summary/Responses, 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 (responding there before class discussion) is advised, as it is part of your grade and will benefit your class participation.

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

40 points	Summary/responses (4X10)
20 points	Reading journal
30 points	Investigative essay on a single cultural artifact (essay #1)
20 points	Presentation of cultural artifact
50 points	Final research essay on a single cultural artifact (essay #2)
20 points	Literature essay (essay #3)

20 points      Peer review (2X10)

40 points      Attendance (0-2 absences receives 40 points, 3 gets 20 points, 4 gets 10 points)

**240 points total, so:**

216-240 points total: A

192- 215 points total: B

168-191 points total: C

144-167 points total: D

143 and below: F

**Outcomes:**

- Develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting artifacts.
- Recognize and synthesize multiple interpretations of a single artifact.
- Apply different and appropriate critical frameworks to the analysis of artifacts.
- Respond critically not only to one's own work but to fellow students' work.
- Evaluate an oral, visual, or written argument for sound or faulty (fallacious) reasoning.
- Assimilate existing information to formulate new ideas.
- Respond critically to course material, using synthesis and analysis.

**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.

*E-mail from students will only be addressed during regular office hours.*

All essays 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.

You will be required to bring additional copies of your work for peer group workshops. Please come to class with materials ready to distribute. We are all relying on each other.

Plagiarism 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](http://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](http://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:**

Aug 24			course introduction assg: artifact introduction due 9/03 assg: read <i>Dreams</i> chs. I-III
Aug 27, 29, 31	discuss chs. I-III  assg: read <i>Dreams</i> chs. IV-VII	discuss chs. IV-VII discuss essay #1 assg. read <i>Dreams</i> chs. VIII-XIII	present artifacts discuss chs. VIII-XIII assg: read Fink
Sept 3, 5, 7	NO CLASS	<b>S/R #1 due</b> discuss Fink assg: read Foucault	discuss Foucault read Fausto-Sterling
Sept 10, 12, 14	discuss Fausto-Sterling  assg: read Mulvey	<b>S/R #2 due</b> discuss Mulvey assg: read Benjamin	discuss Benjamin
Sept 17, 19, 21	workshop essay #1	MEDIA	MEDIA

Sept 24, 26, 28	<b>Essay #1 due</b> assg: read Baudrillard	discuss Baudrillard assg: read Lanham	discuss Lanham assg: read Eno
Oct 1, 3, 5	<b>S/R #3 due</b> discuss Eno assg: read Carson	discuss Carson assg: read Eco	discuss Eco assg: read Lyotard #1 & Lyotard #2
Oct 8, 10, 12	discuss Lyotard #1 & Lyotard #2	<b>S/R #4 due</b> Media & Discussion <i>lit. essay approval by today</i>	NO CLASS
Oct 15, 17, 19	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion
Oct 22, 24, 26	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion	HERMANN'S
Oct 29, 31 Nov 2	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion
Nov 5, 7, 9	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion	presentation/discussion assg: read <i>Crying</i> chs. 1-2
Nov 12, 14, 16	<b>Essay #2 due</b> discuss <i>Crying</i> chs. 1-2 assg: read <i>Crying</i> chs. 3-4	discuss <i>Crying</i> chs. 3-4 assg: read <i>Crying</i> ch. 5	discuss <i>Crying</i> ch 5
Nov 19, 21, 23	poetry discussion	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Nov 26, 28, 30	poetry discussion	poetry discussion	poetry discussion <b>reading journal due</b>
Dec 3, 5, 7	conferences	<b>Essay #3 due</b>	

Choose only one for each summary/response

S/R#1 Freud I-III, IV-VII, VIII-XIII  
S/R#2 Fink, Foucault, Fausto-Sterling, Mulvey  
S/R#3 Benjamin, Baudrillard, Lanham, Eno  
S/R#4 Carson, Eco, Lyotard