

## English 2303

Pop Culture in Contemporary Poetry  
<http://blog.uta.edu/~timothytr>

**Dr. Timothy Richardson**

Office Hours: MTW 12-1pm @ 424 Carlisle Hall  
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- 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 (1) *Universal Monsters* and (2) *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 (0-2 absences receives 40 points, 3 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