

# ENGL 4377-001: Theory and Writing about Cultural Spaces

Spring 2017

**Instructor:** Cedrick May  
**Office:** Carlisle Hall, Room 605  
**Email Address:** [cedrick.may@uta.edu](mailto:cedrick.may@uta.edu)  
**Office Telephone Number:** (817) 272-2692  
**Office Hours:** Tu & Th 12:30-1:30pm

**Syllabus:** [cedrickmay.com/4377.pdf](http://cedrickmay.com/4377.pdf)  
**Section Information:** ENGL 4377-001  
**Time and Place of Class Meetings:**  
Preston Hall, Room 306,  
**Tu/Th 9:30-10:50am**  
January 17 - May 5

## Description of Course Content:

This section of ENGL 4377 is an introduction to a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to reading and writing that are historically important to the study of literature and culture. We will focus our attention on architecture and digital technologies as objects of study within critical theory. We will engage these topics from a Cultural Studies perspective. Archival and field research will be a large part of our work, as you will be visiting various archives and architectural sites in the DFW area in order to produce original Cultural Studies research.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand architectural writing as a genre, and practice writing within that genre.
- Students will engage in original archival research, particularly research regarding designs, designers, architecture, and architects.
- Students will learn the basics of 3D modeling and how to model and write about an idealized architectural space.

## Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

There are several things you will absolutely need in order to successfully complete this course:

[Writing About Architecture](#), by Alexandra Lange (2012)

[The Poetics of Space](#), by Gaston Bachelard (1994)

[Dark Space](#), by Mario Gooden (2016)


The latest issue of *Architectural Digest*

Various Handouts

## Descriptions of major assignments & grading:

**There are four assignments that will constitute the grades for this semester:**

 Writing Journal (15% -- Students will write 150 words per day about a space they are inhabiting)

 Three (3) Major Papers (20% each for a total of 60%)

 One 3D Modeling Assignment (10%)

 Weekly Blog Posts (15%--Full credit for completing all 10 posts. Minus 5% for each missing post)

***All assignments must be turned in the day they are due at the beginning of the class period.***

## Course Schedule

**Note: \*\*Monday, January 23rd -- Hermanns Lectures from 9:00-3:00. Attend at least one of the lectures and take notes for the Thursday, January 26th class**

---

### **Week 1 (Jan 17 & 19)**

- T -- Syllabus and introduction to course content
  - Th -- Writing Exercise
- 

### **Week 2 (Jan 24 & 26)**

- Tu -- **No Class \*\*See note above**
  - Th -- *Writing about Architecture*-- "Introduction: How to be an Architecture Critic" & "House of Glass"  
Blog Post 1
- 

### **Week 3 (Jan 31 & Feb 2)**

- Tu -- *Writing About Architecture*-- "Chapter 2: What Should a Museum Be?" & "Save the Whitney"
  - Th -- Special Collections Visit  
Blog Post 2
- 

### **Week 4 (Feb 7 & 9)**

- Tu -- *Writing About Architecture*-- "Chapter 3: What's Worth Preserving?" & "You Have to Pay for the Public Life"
  - Th -- **Field Trip 1 (Kimble Art Museum)**  
Blog Post 3
- 

### **Week 5 (Feb 14 & 16)**

- Tu -- Writing Workshop
  - Th -- Essay #1 Due (About the Kimble Art Museum)
- 

### **Week 6 (Feb 21 & 23)**

- Tu -- *Poetics of Space*-- "The House, From Ceiling to Garret. The Significance of the Hut"
  - Th -- Archival Research Lecture  
Blog Post 4
- 

### **Week 7 (Feb Feb 28 & March 2)**

- Tu -- Poetics of Space -- "House and Universe"
- Th -- *Design is One* (Video)  
Blog Post 5

**Week 8 (March 7 & 9)**

Tu -- Poetics of Space--“Drawers Chests and Wardrobes”

Th -- **Field Trip #2 (Location TBD)**

Blog Post 6

---

**Week 9 (March 14 & 16)**

Tu -- **SPRING BREAK**

Th -- **SPRING BREAK**

---

**Week 10 (March 21 & 23)**

Tu -- Poetics of Space--“Nests”

Th -- [“Why Great Architecture Should Tell a Story”](#) (TedTalk)

Blog Post 7

---

**Week 11 (March 28 & 30)**

Tu -- Writing Workshop

Th -- Essay #2 Due (About a Building that No Longer Exists)

Blog Post 8

---

**Week 12 (April 4 & 6)**

Tu -- *Dark Space*

Th -- “The Logic of Urbanism” (PDF)

Blog Post 9

---

**Week 13 (April 11 & 13)**

Tu -- Modeling 3D Objects

Th -- **Field Trip 3 (Dallas Freedman’s Cemetery)**

---

**Week 14 (April 18 & 20)**

Tu -- Modeling 3D objects

Th -- Modeling 3D Objects

---

**Week 15 (April 25 & 27)**

Tu -- Writing Workshop

Th -- Essay # 3 and 3D Models Due (Idealized Fictional Architectural Space)

---

**Week 16 (May 2 & 4)**

Tu -- **No Class**

**Blog post 10 (Final blog post)**

Th -- Last Day Of Class--Return papers

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. **However**, as the instructor of this section...

Punctual attendance is mandatory, as there is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. However, I understand that emergencies happen, **students are allotted two (2) absences before any penalties are assigned. On your third and fourth (3-4) absences you will lose 5% off your final grade for each absence. The fifth (5) absence will result in a failure for the course.** Only official university absences are excused. Students representing UTA in a university-sponsored activity that requires missing class should provide official documentation of schedules and turn in work in advance, unless you have approved alternate arrangements with me. Please note that students who show up to class without their books (analog or electronic) will be counted as absent. Two (2) tardies also count as an absence. Absences due to illness, sleeping in, and long weekends are unexcused - they all count toward the absences limit. Since illness is likely at some point during the semester, you are urged to save the unexcused absence for times when you are too sick to come to class. For any absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work they missed and have it completed by the next class period.

**Note** *You will be counted as absent* on any day that you do not bring your books (Kindles) or Notes Journal to class. Please come to class prepared!

(Back to boilerplate...) However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

<p><b>Emergency Phone Numbers:</b> In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at <b>817-272-3003</b> (non-campus phone), <b>2-3003</b> (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>
---