

English 4330.001

Creative Writing—Poetry

<http://blog.uta.edu/~timothy/>

Dr. Timothy Richardson

Office Hours: MWF 12-1pm @ 424 Carlisle Hall

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Texts: The Book of Forms, Lewis Turco
 Universal Monsters by Bryan Dietrich
 Ordinary Genius by Kim Addonizio
 Handouts

Overview: This course is designed to be an intensive practice in the craft of poetry and study of the creative process through close readings of poems, essays on craft, and the workshoping of students' poems. Though the emphasis of this course is necessarily on craft, writing poems also means engaging with other (written, visual, aural, etc.) texts. That is, poetry has a relationship with the world.

Workshop: The rules for workshop are simple. Each student will bring copies of her or his poems to distribute in the class. The class will take these copies home and read/respond to them for the next class meeting (or the one after that, or the one after that; it depends on how quickly we move). When we get to your poem, you will read the poem out loud to the class, then shut up while we discuss it. You are not allowed to talk until we are finished, and even afterward you are only allowed to ask questions for clarification, etc. Each student should have workshoped six poems by the end of the semester.

Responses: Thorough, considered responses to poems to be workshoped are required *before* the poem is workshoped. That is, once you receive a poem, you should read it carefully, perhaps several times, and write detailed notes on the copy so that you will remember what you want to discuss in class. It is important to write your name at the top of the page and to save your responses. I will collect these and you will receive points based on how thorough and useful your responses have been.

Presentation: Each student will present a book of poetry by a single poet to the class. Biographical information may be important, but the presentation should focus on the craft of the poet and the organization of the book as a complete artifact. Examples of the poet's work will be helpful, as well as a discussion of themes, tropes, images, stylistic components, etc.

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

20 points	Presentation
20 points	2 Exercises
40 points	Responses to others' work
60 points	Portfolio
60 points	Attendance (0-1 absence receives 60 points, 2 gets 40 points, 3 gets 20 points, 4 gets 0, etc.)

200 points total, so:

181-200 points total: A
161-180 points total: B
141-160 points total: C
121-140 points total: D
120 and below: F

Outcomes: To recognize the forms of poetry and be able to analyze a poem's effectiveness in its own terms and in how it relates to the tradition; to produce poems that participate in the tradition while maintaining some unique quality; to practice both simple and wholesale revision.

Policies: A significant percentage of this course consist of workshoping each other's poems; regular class attendance is necessary.

I will not accept assignments unless you have made arrangements with me in advance. In case of illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

All poems must be typed. Use basic fonts, no larger than 12 pt. Margins should be one inch. Titles are mandatory and fun. Be original and inventive. Always, always keep an extra hard-or-disk copy of your work.

You will be required to bring additional copies of your work for 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. 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.

NOTE: This is a general plan for our classroom discussions and assignments. Due dates and assignments are subject to change with notice from the instructor.

Aug. 24, 26	Course Introduction	Discuss Addonizio 1-4
Aug. 31, Sept. 2	Share EX#1 (pg. 44-45) Discuss "Tradition and the Individual Talent"	Discuss Addonizio 5-9 & Hand out 1 st w/s poems
Sept. 7, 9	workshop	workshop
Sept. 14, 16	Share EX#2 (pg. 85) Discuss Addonizio 10-17	workshop
Sept. 21, 23	workshop	workshop
Sept. 28, 30	Discuss Addonizio 18-24 workshop	workshop
Oct. 5, 7	Discuss Addonizio 25-29 workshop	workshop
Oct. 12, 14	Discuss Addonizio 30-end workshop	workshop
Oct. 19, 21	workshop / discuss readings	workshop / discuss readings
Oct. 26, 28, 29	Book Presentation	Book Presentation
Nov. 2, 4	Book Presentation	Book Presentation
Nov. 9, 11	workshop	workshop
Nov. 16, 18	workshop	workshop
Nov. 23, 25	workshop	NO CLASS
Nov. 30, Dec. 2	workshop	Portfolio Due