

Text Discussion Second Semester 2016

Instructor: Shannon Foss
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Facebook Group: Third Year Text Discussion 2016
Office Hours: By appointment

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand and articulate the differences between texts
- Use a variety of theoretical frameworks to analyze texts
- Be able to engage in complex discussions about texts

Grading:

Participation: 25%
Reflection Questions: 25%
Final Project: 50%

Participation

Because this is a discussion class, attendance and participation are important to the learning process. Students should make every effort to review required material before classes and be present during every class period. If you should miss class, it will be your responsibility to contact your classmates and/or me to obtain the course content and information regarding assignments. Because of the importance of attending classes, each student will be graded on participation.

Here are some behaviors that count as participation:

- Asking questions
- Answering questions
- Making comments

Here are some behaviors that make contributions even better:

- Responding to something another student says (or answering another student's question)
- Providing evidence to support your opinion or counter-evidence to call a claim into question
- Constructively disagreeing with something in the material or something said by the instructor or another student

In this class, meaning is *plural* but not *subjective*. That means there is more than one right way to argue things, but your claims should be backed by evidence, whether from academic sources or your own experience. Requests for evidence to back your claims should not be considered an attack on your opinion; please try to recognize it as a part of the collaborative learning process.

I will be grading participation by regularly writing notes about who is contributing in class. I will excuse two days of participation when calculating grades. That means you will begin losing points after you do not attend and participate in two classes.

Reflection Questions

Every day we will begin class by asking a series of questions. At the end of class, we will do a short writing task where we reflect on the answers to these questions. These writing tasks will be turned in at the end of every course. Full points will be awarded for responses that demonstrate comprehension of and engagement in the question(s). I will excuse two days of reflection questions when calculating grades. That means you will begin losing points after you do not satisfactorily complete two reflection questions.

Final Project

The final assignment in this class will be a group video project. This will consist of several parts:

- Project proposal (turned in as a group)
- Video project (turned in as a group)
- Reflection paper (turned in by each individual)
- Group member evaluation (turned in by each individual)

More information on the final project will be provided later in the semester.

Course Policies:

Electronic Devices

Please refrain from using your laptop, cellphone, and other electronic devices during class. If you need to use your phone or another electronic device during the class period, kindly step out of the classroom to do so.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and other scholarly misconduct are in violation of course policies and will NOT be tolerated. According to the OWL at Purdue University, plagiarism is “the uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas.” Plagiarism includes copying and pasting another person’s work and submitting it as your own. **Plagiarism or cheating on an assignment will result in an automatic failing grade on that assignment.**

Make-up Policy and Late Assignments

Make-up work will only be allowed when I am notified in advance, and when the reasons for being unable to complete the work on time are legitimate. Late work will be accepted, but 10% will be deducted from the grade for each day after the assignment’s due date. If you have some sort of extraordinary extenuating circumstances that will not allow you to complete work, please contact me as soon as possible.