

Unit Three – Humanities: Representations of Memory
Close Reading and Research

As life becomes increasingly digital, our cameras, our televisions, even our coffee makers have memory. As **computerized memory** becomes ubiquitous, how do we **creatively** connect to our **own memories**? Your challenge for paper three is to perform a close reading of a text that represents memory in one form or another. Your goal, as a cultural critic, is to analyze the component parts of the film/story/poem/art installation/object and to support your analysis with outside research. Your argument itself does not have to be about memory, although this is a convenient entry point for approaching any of the assigned texts.

Option 1: Write a 4 – 6 page analysis of any one of the assigned digital artworks or poems, based upon close reading and outside research.

You may also choose to perform a close reading of a film similar to the one we performed of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Films that are off-limits are: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Notebook*, *50 First Dates*, *Memento*. Additionally, you may choose a different artwork or piece of literature. For any text that was not on the schedule, you must clear your choice with me via email, before topic proposals are due.

Option 2: Write a 3 – 4 page short story and 3 – 4 page analysis of your story. The story should address the subject of memory and should incorporate the themes that have surfaced during readings and in-class discussion. The accompanying analysis should explain how the story connects to the themes and readings and *should also reflect on the medium of the short story as a means of communication*. You are not graded on the literary merit of your short story so much as how well it captures themes from the course.

Readings: See the online course schedule

Requirements:

- For the essay: 4 – 6 pages; For the story/analysis: 6 – 8 pages; Both options should be double spaced; 12-point Times font; 1-inch margins all the way around
- Use a minimum of two outside sources to support your analysis.
- MLA-style in-text citations and works cited list.
- All work submitted on time in an electronic portfolio. No late work will be accepted.

Grading Breakdown (25 points possible):

Polished Draft: 25 points (See the grading rubric on the course website).

Time line and Due Dates:

Topic Proposal, due Tue 6/5: The proposal should indicate which text(s) you plan to analyze, which outside sources you intend to utilize, etc. The proposal may or may not include a tentative thesis but at the very minimum it should give the reader a robust understanding of what your paper will be about. Why have you chosen a certain text(s)? Which aspects of a text will receive your focus – characters, themes, etc? Topic proposals should be written in well-organized paragraphs and should fall somewhere between 300 – 500 words. The topic proposal will be recorded as homework and thus part of your participation score.

Annotated Bibliography, due Thu 6/7: Five secondary sources, in MLA works cited format, followed by brief annotations (75 words minimum). No more than two of your secondary

sources may be from assigned readings. Please note that the text you are analyzing (poem, artwork, or film) is a primary source and should not be included in the annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography will be recorded as homework, and thus as part of your participation score.

See the Unit One assignment sheet for guidelines on the electronic portfolio.

Polished draft due Wednesday, June 13th. Post in class wiki by 11:59 pm.