

**Midterm Take-Home Exam –  
DUE: Tuesday, March 11, 2003 in Class**

**Please type up your responses to these exam questions!!!**

1. **Short Answer – Identification/Definition.** Please identify/define the following concepts, each of which have been discussed in class. Provide as succinct a definition as possible, identify any authors/theorists involved with the concept, and provide examples, where appropriate from any of the fictional/filmic works we have read/viewed thus far in our course. Do not write more than one paragraph for each response. (50%)

- rhizome
- *nouveau roman*
- intertextuality
- orality & literacy
- authorship

2. **Essay.** Choose one of the following questions and write a thoughtful, well-structured essay that engages with the ideas brought up in the question. (50%)

- Robbe-Grillet makes claims in his theoretical essays to the inconsequences of history, that characters are connected solely to their presence, that they carry no signification with them whatsoever.

Vannevar Bush's essay "As We May Think" explores the possibility of applying technological advances in the sciences (physics, chemistry, engineering) to the vast record of knowledge we have created for ourselves (archives, texts, images, scholarly journals). His work focuses on associative memory, and an idea for mechanizing this process.

Christopher Nolan's film *Memento* serves as a visual representation of short term memory loss, and the types of devices used by the main character for maintaining some semblance of coherency between events.

What connections can you draw between these 3 examples?

- Each of the authors we have encountered this term (Borges, Robbe-Grillet, Ransmayr, Calvino) have written fictional texts that seek to stretch the limits of traditional print-based fiction. In doing this, they ultimately begin to dismantle the very notion of authorship that sets themselves up in the role of author.

With examples taken from one of these authors and the texts we've read by them, explain how the author himself (in these 4 cases) experiments with a more traditional sense of linear narrative, and in the process questions the same traditional ideas of what it means to be an author. What role(s) does the reader take on in these texts?

In your answer, also take into account the essays we've read by Benedetti, Barthes and Foucault.