Assignment overview
For the readings assigned for each class session, I expect you to write at least two pages in your reading notebooks. It is best to have your responses in a three ring binder so you can remove the sections that pertain to the day’s reading. This is so I can collect one day’s entry without taking away your entire reading notebook.

There are a number of ways you can write in response to the readings. Each time, you can choose between “summary/response,” “reading log,” and “interview with author” described below. Be sure to make a note of the reading(s) addressed and the style of your writing.

1. Summary/Response
The first page is a restatement of the text’s arguments in your own words. You can write a summary, make an outline, draw a flowchart or a diagram of the reading, or simply take careful notes. The purpose of this page is to help you understand as fully as possible the structure and details of the author’s argument. This page will help you recall the article(s) in some detail many weeks later.

The second page is your own personal reflections on, or reactions to, the article or chapter. Analyze it, illustrate it through your own experience, refute it, get mad at it, question it, believe it, doubt it, go beyond it, connect it to other readings and lecture/lab.

2. Reading Log
You are free to choose what you say for both pages. You can summarize the text, connect it to personal experience, argue with it, imitate it, analyze it, or evaluate it. You can describe your emotional, intellectual, or philosophical responses to the text by answering questions like “What does this text mean to me?” and “What effect does this text have on my values, my beliefs, my way of looking at the world?”

3. Interview with author
Write a dialogue in which you interview the author, or start a dialogue or argument with several of the authors. You should play the devil’s advocate, in which you argue against the author’s views and invent the author’s response.

Deadline
Reading notebooks will be collected during selected lecture periods, which will not be revealed in advance. The TAs and I will look over your notebooks for evidence of effort and engaged thought and to see how you are engaging with the readings and class.

Course grade
This assignment is worth 5% of your total course grade.