

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Spring 2007

English 104 A: Experience of Literature

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Comfort

OFFICE Zinzendorf 104

PHONE (610) 625-7977

Office Hours M, F 8:40-9:40 & by appt.

E-MAIL memsc01@moravian.edu

Class: PPHAC 330, 10:20-11:10 a.m.

TEXT Meyer, Michael. *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature: Reading, Thinking, Writing*. 7th edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

COURSE GOALS (for instructor)

To encourage students to enjoy reading and discussing literature

To build on students' current knowledge of poetry, fiction, and drama

To introduce vocabulary and conventions used to discuss literature

To empower students to participate in a variety of discourse communities in which literature is valued

To allow for creative responses to literature

To consider historic, literary, and cultural contexts of literature

To invite and value varied responses during class discussion

To provide opportunities for oral presentations in small groups and in the class

To respond thoughtfully to students' views as written in three essays

To provide opportunities for students to demonstrate preparation for class (quizzes, discussion questions, etc.)

To encourage students to welcome the delicious ambiguity of the "difficult beauty" in literature

COURSE GOALS (for students)

To enjoy reading and discussing literature

To bring previous knowledge of poetry, fiction, and drama to bear on current readings

To learn vocabulary and observe conventions used to discuss literature

To become familiar with various discourse communities that value literature

To respond creatively (in my own voice with my own experience and thoughts) to the readings

To learn the historic, literary, and cultural contexts that influence literature

To think critically about and appreciate the complexity and diversity of serious literature

To enter into and continue a discussion about literature, to compare the treatment of a single theme in several works of literature, to analyze literary elements to answer a specific question

To write essays that shape and extend class discussion, that build on instructor and peer comments, that incorporate research about literature

To understand literal meanings and consider implications in figurative meanings

To tolerate—perhaps to welcome—the lack of closure, the deliberate ambiguity found in complex literature

GRADES

1. Papers (3) @ 15%, 15%, & 15% each =45%

2. EITHER Midterm = 15% & Final examination = 20% = 35%

OR Two tests @ 10% each and final worth 15% = 35%

3. Participation (attendance, discussion, quizzes) = 20%

All grades for participation, quizzes, tests, and papers will be assigned at the instructor's discretion.

QUIZZES may include questions about the readings, discussed or not discussed. Other questions may come from class discussion and lectures, e-mailings, Blackboard postings, films and other audio-visual enrichments, and student comments. Quizzes may not be made up.

READING AND DISCUSSION PREPARATION To understand literary terms, read the assigned sections AND the literary works. After studying the appropriate explanatory paragraphs provided by the editors, ask yourself how the works illustrate the concepts discussed. We will not discuss all of these sections but you will be responsible for them on tests. Therefore, you should ask about any parts which you find difficult to understand. Reading schedule is tentative.

Moravian College welcomes students with disabilities. If you need to have special considerations, please bring me appropriate documentation right away.

All papers must be written originally for this course. Follow the Moravian College policy on original work. Do not plagiarize.

READING SCHEDULE Future changes in schedule will reflect students' interests and abilities.

Week #1 **Dubus**, Killings. **William Faulkner**, "Barn Burning"

Week #2 **Raymond Carver**, *Popular Mechanics*, **T. Coraghessan Boyle**, *Carnal Knowledge*, **Susan Minot**, *Lust*

Week #3 **Amy Bloom**, *By-and-By*, **A.S. Byatt**, *Baglady*, **Richard Russo**, *The Whore's Child*

Week #4 **Margaret Atwood**, *There Was Once*, **Lorrie Moore**, *How to Become a Writer*, **Tim O'Brien**, *How to Tell a True War Story*

Week #5 **Jamaica Kincaid**, *Girl*, **D. H. Lawrence**, *The Horse Dealer's Daughter*, **Alice Munro**, *An Ounce of Cure*, **E. Annie Proulx**, *55 Miles to the Gas Pump*, **John Updike**, *A & P*

Essay #1 due: on two or more works of fiction read and discussed for this class

Week #6 Poetry: "Reading Poetry" (pages 497-530)

Week #7 Poetry: "Writing about Poetry" and "Word Choice, Word Order, and Tone" (530-570)

Week #8 Poetry: "Images" and "Figures of Speech" (570-609)

Week #9 Poetry: "Symbol, Allegory, and Irony" (609-657)

Week #10 Poetry: "Patterns of Rhythm" and "Poetic Forms" (657-688)

Week #11 Poetry: "Poetic Forms" and "Open Form" (688-721)

Essay #2 due: on two or more poems read and discussed for this class

Week #12 Drama: *Trifles*, *Steel Magnolias*

Week #13 Drama: *Hamlet* (from Bartleby.org), *Glass Menagerie*

Week #14 Drama: *A Doll House*, *Death of a Salesman*

Week #15 Drama: *The Piano Lesson* (video, August Wilson), *A Raisin in the Sun*