

# Displacement

Exile and Immigration in Latin American and Latino Literature

(FORL/IDIS 291)

Moravian College

Spring 2007

Dr. Erica Miller Yozell Comenius Hall 402 610-625-7782 emy@moravian.edu I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hs on weekdays and within 48 hs on weekends.	Class times: M, W, F 12:50-1:40 p.m. Location: Comenius 111  Office Hours: Mon. 11:40-12:40 & 1:45-2:45, Wed. 11:40-12:40, and by appt.
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**Displacement** – *immigration, exile, or marginalization within a nation* – is a phenomenon seen across the world, and one that currently is a frequent topic of discussion. The reasons for such displacement, as well as the understanding and representations of it, vary across cultures depending on historical circumstances, societal differences, and cultural norms. This course will focus on different responses to these phenomena among the diverse Latin American cultures. In this course, we will study texts and films that examine such questions through the lens of fiction. These texts deal directly with moments of social transformation, power differences, and cultural (mis)understanding. Studying these works will help students better understand the timely issues of displacement, as well as how these issues are perceived and represented by many of the diverse communities in Latin America and the Latino U.S. You do not need a background in Latin American or Hispanic studies, although such a background will enrich our discussions. The course will be conducted in English.

## Required Texts (Available at the Moravian College bookstore):

Junot Díaz, *Drown*

Cristina García, *Dreaming in Cuban*

Alicia Partnoy, *The Little School*

Manuel Puig, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

Mario Vargas Llosa, *The Storyteller*

\*\*\*There will be a number of additional required readings available in photocopies or on Blackboard.\*\*\*

## Blackboard:

I have put together a Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>) for this course. You need to enroll yourself – so please do this soon! The registration code is *exile*. On Blackboard you will find a copy of the syllabus, the course calendar, and my contact information. There are also a number of texts that will be required elements of the course. As the semester progresses, I will post homework assignments, details on

compositions and projects, any changes to the syllabus, and additional information. If you miss class for any reason, you should check Blackboard so that you know what material to prepare and what homework to complete for the next class.

### EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION:

***Participation and Preparation (15%):*** Your active participation in class is crucial to the success of this course. Students are expected to have read carefully the assigned material, to have completed all assignments, to contribute to class discussions, and to take an active role in class activities. Absence from class, for any reason, will adversely affect your participation grade. More than three absences, for any reason, will result in a lowering of the final grade by a partial letter grade (for example, from a B+ to a B). If you will miss class for a religious holiday, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for missed work. Exceptions may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances such as prolonged illness or family emergency; these situations may require additional documentation through Learning Services and are not automatically guaranteed. The student would need to make arrangements to complete missed work. Travel plans are not considered extraordinary circumstances.

*\*\*Please remember to silence all personal communication devices.\*\**

***Regular short analysis/response assignments (20%):*** Students will be expected to complete a variety of short assignments including informal responses, brief position papers, and discussion questions. Work is due at the beginning of class. Late work loses 15 points per day, starting at the time of class. I do not accept emailed assignments except by prior arrangement.

***Presentations (15%):*** Students will give a presentation (~25 min) related to one of the major topics in the class. The presentation should include the students' analysis of the work/situation and open into a discussion led by the student. Once the presentation dates have been assigned (beginning of the semester), each student can choose the text or body of texts he or she wishes to study. The student should meet with the professor during office hours two weeks in advance to obtain approval for the topic and work(s). Details will be discussed in class.

***Three 4-5 page compositions (15%, 15%, and 20%):*** Students will write three short (4-5 page) formal essays during the semester on questions that will be announced later. Papers must be typed and double-spaced. I will not accept emailed papers unless we have made previous arrangements. No late papers will be accepted.

### **Academic Honesty:**

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own) and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified. For example, while you

may study together, it is not acceptable to write “joint” homework and turn in two copies.

For detailed information, see the website:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Any student with a disability who would like to request accommodations under the ADA must meet first with someone to evaluate the case and give recommendations to the professor. For learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD, see Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services; for all other disabilities, see Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center.