

English 104 B - fall 2007

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Office hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

The Experience of Literature

Literature is our written history, our ongoing comments on life. The purpose of this course is to befriend books, and allow you to experience as well as interpret and evaluate novels, short stories, poems and dramas. You will be required to make your own choices of different forms of literature in order to increase your understanding and appreciation of the written word. The emphasis this semester will be on war in literature. War has been an important part of literature since the very beginning of written human history. We will concentrate on the 20th and the 21st centuries, which unfortunately were soaked with wars and war literature.

Course Objectives

- Enhance your reading
- Facilitate your ability to use books as space ships to other worlds
- Develop your inner voice
- Help to improve your written and oral skills
- Give you some experience in working alone and in group
- Enable you to distinguish between constructive and destructive criticism
- Allow you the freedom to shape your own literary taste and penchant

Required reading

Literature The Human Experience Richard Abcarian, Martin Klotz

Recommended texts

Candid Voltaire

A Room of One's Own Virginia Woolf

Blindness Jose Saramago

Emma Jane Austen

Catch 22 Joseph Heller

Madame Bovary Gustave Flaubert

One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Expectations

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Missing lessons and lateness will interfere with learning and hence affect your grade. Since there is a large emphasis on teamwork you will be required not to disrupt your fellow student's creativity and to be considerate.

No ringing cell phones and no eating during class.

All assignment will be presented in print; hence you have to master computer skills.

I trust you to read and follow the Academic honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook. You can find it as well on

<http://www.moravian.edu/StudentLife/handbook02/academic2.htm>

Your own ideas and individual input will be valued more than borrowing and quoting

Grading

1. Contribution in class discussion.....20%
2. Attendance..... 15%
3. Presentations in class.....15%
4. Written works.....25%
5. Research papers on your chosen topic.....25%

Schedule

Week I

Monday August 27

introduction and ground rules

Wednesday August 29

Reader-writer's relationship

Week II	
Monday September 3	Labor Day
Wednesday September 5	the power of words
Week III	
Monday September 10	Literature and history
Wednesday September 12	Fiction and non fiction
Week IV	
Monday September 17	writers as witnesses
Wednesday September 19	Texts as mirrors of their times
Week V	
Monday September 24	Experiencing literature with your senses
Wednesday September 26	Freedom and war
Week VI	
Monday October 1	Poetry and its liberties
Wednesday October 3	Midterm essay due
Week VII	
Monday October 8	Fall Recess
Wednesday October 10	Literature as politics
Week VIII	
Monday October 15	Music inspired by literature
Wednesday October 17	is translation betrayal?
Week IX	
Monday October 22	Writers as immigrants to a new language
Wednesday October 24	literature relating to other forms of art
Week X	
Monday October 29	War as an inspiration
Wednesday October 31	Plays and screenplays
Week XI	
Monday November 5	Soldiers of words
Wednesday November 7	Drama, different examples
Week XII	

Monday November 12	do we learn from the past?
Wednesday November 14	enlisting ideas
Week XIV	
Monday November 19	Children's literature
Wednesday November 21	Thanksgiving Recess
Week XV	
Monday November 26	Voices, genre and gender
Wednesday November 28	final essays due
Week XVI	
Monday December 3	can books change your life?
Wednesday December 5	Imagination, readers' and writers'
Week XVII	
Monday December 10	conclusions

Notes:

- 1) Students can expect to dedicate 5-8 hours per week outside of class, reading and preparing assignments.
- 2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- 3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
- 4) This syllabus is subject to change