

English 104 A - spring 2008
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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 literature written during the 20th and the 21st centuries. We will read writings from all over the world and compare the human experience in different cultures, countries, times and live-styles.

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..... 20%
3. Presentations in class.....10%
4. Written works.....25%
5. Research papers on your chosen topic.....25%

Schedule

Week I

Monday January 14 introduction and ground rules

Wednesday January 16 what's in a name?

Week II

Monday January 21 Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday January 23 the power of words

Week III

Monday January 28 Literature and history

Wednesday January 30 Innocence and Experience

Week IV

Monday February 4 writers as witnesses

Wednesday February 6 Texts as mirrors of their times

Week V

Monday February 11 Experiencing literature with your senses

Wednesday February 13 Freedom and war

Week VI

Monday February 18 Poetry and its liberties

Wednesday February 20 Conformity and Rebellion

Week VII

Monday February 25 Mid-term due

Wednesday February 27 Literature as politics

Week VIII

Monday March 3 Spring Recess

Wednesday March 5 Spring Recess

Week IX

Monday March 10 Writers as immigrants to a new language

Wednesday March 12 literature relating to other forms of art

Week X

Monday March 17 Culture and Identity

Wednesday March 19 Plays and screenplays

Week XI

Monday March 24 Easter Recess

Wednesday March 26	Globalization of Literature
Week XII	
Monday March 31	do we learn from the past?
Wednesday April 2	enlisting ideas
Week XIV	
Monday April 7	Love and Hate
Wednesday April 9	is translation a betrayal?
Week XV	
Monday April 14	Voices, genre and gender
Wednesday April 16	final essays due
Week XVI	
Monday April 21	can books change your life?
Wednesday April 23	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