

English 104 B - 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