

Dr. George S. Diamond
Fall, 2008

Zinzendorf 37 -- 861-1391
Office Hours T & Th 1-2:30 PM
and by appointment

English 104A Experience of Literature—Out of the Melting Pot:
Poems, Plays, & Stories of a Multicultural Society

I. The object of this course is twofold: the study of major literary genres—fiction, poetry, drama—emphasizing analytical and communication skills through written and oral projects, and a study of the modern literature written by representatives of America's many cultures to gain perspective and understanding of life in a multicultural society.

II. Works of individual authors will be studied through lectures and class discussions. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions. Each student will also be responsible for an oral report of five to ten minutes, chosen by lot on a specific work, and participation in a panel discussion also chosen by lot.

III. The course will begin with a discussion of the meaning and interpretation of literature, followed with a discussion of the meaning of multiculturalism, and continuing with the subjects covered in the text's nine chapters: home, family, heritage, language, aliens, fences, crossings, Americans, and beliefs.

IV. There will be ten free writing exercises worth 10%; a thematic paper of interpretation paper worth 15% of the term's grade, a literary paper of interpretation worth 15%, one mid-term examination worth 20%, a final worth 20%, an oral report worth 10%, and a panel presentation worth 10%.

IV. All students will be expected to attend a performance of OKLAHOMA by Rogers & Hammerstein at Muhlenberg College; times and cost will be announced later in the term. Also, students will be expected to attend the film SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS, Wednesday, October 8th, 7:00 PM, Prosser Auditorium, HUB, for which they will be given class credit. Students will also be expected to see one film, IN AMERICA available on line in Blackboard.

V. Attendance policy for English 104A is based upon the attendance statement in the current Moravian College Catalog: read, date, sign, and submit the accompanying paper. Attendance includes viewing the film and attending the play.

VI. Essay examinations and papers will be expected to adhere to a minimum quality of Standard English. In addition, all students are expected to adhere to the revised policy on academic honesty that appears in the student handbook and the college catalog.

Text: New Worlds of Literature: Writing's From Americas Many Cultures,
Second Edition

1. M Au 25 Course introduction; the Influence of Literature, its meaning and purpose; Introduction, xiii-xvii; 9 Afterwards
2. W Au 27 The influence of literature, cont.; 921-961
3. F Au 29 **Multiculturalism and Pluralism**, the nature of life in America

4. W Sp 3 Multiculturalism, cont.; Free Writing Exercise 1 & group discussion; Home, Intro, selected essays, stories, poems, & drama.
5. F Sp 5 **Home**, Free Writing Exercise 2 & group discussion;

6. M Sp 8 Stories
7. W Sp 10 Poems
8. F Sp 12 Drama, *AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE*; Family, Intro, selected essays, stories, & poems

9. M Sp 15 **Family**, Free Writing Exercise 3 & group discussion;
10. W Sp 17 Stories
11. F Sp 19 Poems; Heritage, Intro, selected essays, stories, & poems

12. M Sp 22 **Heritage**; Free Writing Exercise 4 & group discussion;
13. W Sp 24 Stories
14. F Sp 26 Comp period for SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS

15. M Sp 29 Poems; Language, Intro, selected essays, stories, poems, & drama
16. W Oc 1 **Language**, Free Writing Exercise 5 & group discussion
17. F Oc 3 Stories

18. W Oc 8 Poems;
19. F Oc 10 Discussion of SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS

20. M Oc 13 Drama, *THE INDIAN WANTS THE BRONX*; Aliens, Intro, selected essays, stories, poems, & movie
21. W Oc 15 **Aliens**; Free Writing Exercise 6 & group discussion
22. F Oc 17 Stories

23. M Oc 20 Poems
24. W Oc 22 Movie, *IN AMERICA*; Fences, Intro, selected essays, stories, poems, & drama
25. F Oc 24 **Fences**, Free Writing Exercise 7 & group discussion

26. M Oc 27 **Examination 1**
27. W Oc 29 Stories
28. F Oc 31 Poems
29. M Nv 3 Discussion of thematic paper of interpretation paper and literary
paper of interpretation
30. W Nv 5 Drama, *FENCES*; Crossing, Intro, selected essays, stories, poems,
& drama
31. F Nv 7 **Crossing**, Free Writing Exercise 8 & group discussion
32. M Nv 10 Stories
33. W Nv 12 Poems
34. F Nv 14 Drama, *WEDDING BAND*; Americans, Intro, selected essays,
stories, poems, & drama
35. M Nv 17 **Americans**, Free Writing Exercise 9 & group discussion
36. W Nv 19 Stories
37. F Nv 21 Poems
38. M Nv 24 Drama, *OKLAHOMA*; Beliefs, Intro, selected essays, stories,
poems, & drama
39. M Dc 1 **Beliefs**, Free Writing Exercise 10 & group discussion
40. W Dc 3 Stories
41. F Dc 5 Poems;
42. M Dc 8 Drama, *THE DAY OF THE SWALLOWS*
43. W Dc 10 Course evaluation forms

OUTCOMES FOR ENGLISH 104 Experience of Literature

At the conclusion of English 104 the student should:

- Have a fundamental understanding of multiculturalism and how multiculturalism relates to life in America;
- Have an understanding of how literary artists of exceptional ability from a variety of cultures have used their backgrounds to create works of art;
- Have an understanding of how these works stand by themselves as works of art but also serve to define and elucidate the essence of American life in all its variety and complexity;
- Have an understanding of the importance of literature as a specific art form, and have a fundamental understanding of the ways in which literary works may be interpreted;
- Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of critical and philosophical works that define and analyze literature;
- Demonstrate competence in devising perceptive written and oral analyses, alone and in concert with others, of works of literature by careful and exact reading and employing the tools of literary analysis and library research.

