

Displacement:  
Immigration, Exile and Internal Displacement  
in Latin American and Latino Literature (IDIS/FORL 291)  
Fall 2010  
Moravian College

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| Dr. Erica Miller Yozell<br>Comenius Hall 402<br>610-625-7782<br>emy@moravian.edu<br>I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hs on weekdays and within 48 hs on weekends. | Class times:<br>WF 8:55-10:05<br>Location: Comenius 304<br><br>Office Hours: MWF 11:15-12:15 and by appt. |
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Immigration, exile and internal displacement are phenomena seen across the world, and ones that currently are frequent topics of discussion. The causes, as well as the understanding and representations of these situations, 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 you better understand the timely issues of displacement, as well as how these issues are perceived and represented.

In this course, the discussions and writing assignments will help you develop the critical writing, reading, and thinking skills that will enable success in this class and will also transfer to other academic and professional contexts.

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. As a 200-level course, it is designed primarily for sophomore-senior level students.

**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*

\*\*\*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. As the semester progresses, I will post homework assignments, some readings, details on compositions and projects, any changes to the syllabus, and additional information. If you miss class for any reason, you should check the syllabus and Blackboard so that you know what material to prepare and what homework to complete for the next class.

**EXPECTATIONS, EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK:**

**Participation and Preparation (10%):** This class is based on discussion, so your active participation in class is crucial to the success of this course. The course issues are complex and controversial, and in discussing them, we will strive to respect and to engage with others' perspectives. In order to do so, you are expected to have read carefully the assigned material, to have completed all assignments, to contribute thoughtfully to class discussions, and to take an active role in class activities.

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 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 turn off all personal communication devices during class time. I also ask that you not eat meals during class because it is distracting and impedes your full participation in class activities.\*\**

**Portfolios of Written Work (90%):** Students will turn in three portfolios over the course of the semester. There will be specific instructions and grading explanations for each distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. The multiple-portfolio format allows students to receive timely feedback throughout the course and to evaluate their own progress.

- The portfolios will include both informal and formal written work.
- Informal writing. During the semester, students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments designed to help them engage with unfamiliar material as well as to develop critical thinking and writing skills. Assignments will include free-response entries, guided responses, writing and pre-writing exercises, brief position papers, and discussion questions. If you meet all of the requirements for the assignments and complete them on time, you are will receive a B in this category. You may earn an A by regularly demonstrating qualitatively superior work. Late or incomplete work, on the other hand, will earn a grade lower than a B.
- Formal writing. Includes two short (1-2 page) essays and two medium length (6-7 page) essays. Students will receive feedback on all formal essays in time to complete revisions before turning in the portfolio. Revisions should be substantive, not superficial. Details on each assignment will be distributed.
- All written work should be typed and double-spaced.

#### Evaluation:

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|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 20% | Section One Portfolio | 35% | Sections 3-4 Portfolio |
| 35% | Section Two Portfolio | 10% | Participation          |

#### Letter grades:

|         |    |       |    |       |    |       |    |
|---------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
| 93- 100 | A  | 86-83 | B  | 76-73 | C  | 66-63 | D  |
| 92-90   | A- | 82-80 | B- | 72-70 | C- | 62-60 | D- |
| 89-87   | B+ | 79-77 | C+ | 69-67 | D+ | 59-0  | F  |

### CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Writing Center:** I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Center (second floor of Zinzendorf) when working on papers. You should schedule appointments in advance, bring the a draft of your paper, and bring a copy of the assignment. <http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/appointments.htm>

**Reeves Library:** The librarians also provide excellent help with research questions. The library website contains a number of research guides, too. <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves/>

**Office of Learning Services:** 1307 Main Street, (610) 861-1510, <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>  
They provide great resources and strategies to help all students achieve academic success. They are also the place to go if you would like to request ADA accommodations in this class.

**The Counseling Center:** 1307 Main Street, (610) 861-1510,  
<http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>  
The counselors are there to help you with the stressors of college life.

#### 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. Remember that internet sources need to be cited just as you would a print source. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified. For example, while you may study together and discuss ideas, 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>