

English 104 A: The Experience of Literature
Tuesday and Thursday 8:55-10:05 AM, PPHAC 117

Professor: Dr. Crystal N. Fodrey
Office: Zinzendorf 307
Phone: 610-861-1511

Email: fodreyc@moravian.edu
Office Hours: MTW 1:00 – 3:00 PM, and
by appointment

Course Description:

Official catalog description: Introduction to major literary genres from a variety of times and cultures, emphasizing analytical and communication skills through written and oral projects.

To reach the aforementioned end, in this Experience of Literature course we read, analyze, and occasionally create nonfiction, fiction, and poetry of/on the environment. Specifically, we will ask how (and/or how well) such literary texts function historically and culturally as writing with the potential to effect positive change in the world as it celebrates and problematizes peoples' connection and/or responsibility to particular environs. Students in this class will also be expected to participate on occasion in the MoCo Farm Fresh Market—which occurs on Fridays from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the PPHAC Plaza—as both observers and presenters.

Course Goals:

- Analyze environmental literature through close reading.
- Develop strategies for analyzing texts for particular purposes, audiences, and situations.
- Analyze the ways in which authors of environmental literature use textual conventions to achieve their purposes in specific contexts.
- Write essays that develop analyses with evidence drawn from the texts you read.
- Incorporate other writers' interpretations into the analyses you write.
- Practice research, reading, writing, and revision strategies that can be applied to work in other courses and in different professions.
- Work collaboratively to create a public presentation related to the course theme
- Create multiple, meaningful revisions of your writing and suggest useful revisions to other writers.

Required Texts:

- Anderson, Lorraine, Scott Slovic, and John P. O'Grady. *Literature and the Environment*. 2nd ed. Longman, 2012.
- Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. 1974. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2007.
- Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us*. Picador, 2008.
- Additional Readings Provided on [Blackboard](#)
- **Note:** The Weisman text has replaced the Atwood text currently listed as “required” at the bookstore. Feel free to keep the Atwood text if you have already purchased it (it is an excellent read), and know that we will not be reading the Weisman text until much later in the semester. We will, however, read the Dillard text in the upcoming weeks, so be sure to pick that one up ASAP. Also know that I am fine with you buying digital copies of both the Dillard and Weisman texts for iBook, Kindle, etc., if you would rather save a tree and read those on an e-reader/iPad.

Other Materials:

- Paper and pen/pencil and/or electronic writing device for in-class writing
- Hard copies of your work as needed for class and group discussion
- Daily access to the Internet

Course Evaluation, Assignments, and Grades:

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignments and for the final course grade. Grades will consider the following aspects of writing, in the context of a particular assignment: purpose, audience, content, organization, development of ideas, style, ethos, document design, mechanics/ readability, and maturity of thought.

The following table lists all assignments and their point values. Required assignments that carry no point values must be completed in order for you to receive full credit for the unit and the course.

Assignment	Points
Analysis Essay #1 – The Nature of Nature	15
Analysis Essay #2 – Civic Discourse and/on the Environment	15
Analysis Essay #3 – Researched Analysis of an Environmental Text	25
Final Project: Revision of Essay #1 or #2 and Reflection	15
Short Assignments/In-Class Writing	10
Presentation for Public Audience at MoCo Farm Fresh Market	10
Participation	10
Total Points Possible	100

To receive an A in this course, you must accumulate at least 90 points; for a B, 80 points; for a C, 70 points; and for a D, 60 points. Please turn in all assignments, even if you believe they are poorly done. The difference between an F grade and 0 is that F carries points toward the final points and is assigned for something turned in, while a 0 carries no points and is assigned when no assignment is submitted.

In this course you will practice three types of analysis by writing three major essays, each with multiple drafts. Short assignments, in-class writing, and the public presentation are meant to provide additional outlets for response, brainstorming, drafting, and delivery of ideas related to the topic of the course.

- **Analysis Essays #1 and #2**, each worth 15 points (15%) of your grade, focus closely on your chosen texts in a limited context and will be 3 to 5 pages in length. For Analysis Essay #1 you will be asked to analyze the literary, textual, and/or cultural features that shape your response to a text or texts' treatment of "Nature." For Analysis Essay #2, you will be asked to analyze how and/or how well an environmental text functions as civic discourse within its historical and cultural contexts. You might also compare the strategies or features evident in two different texts or explore your personal reactions to the text(s) in one or both of these essays.
- **Analysis Essay #3**, worth 25 points (25%) of your grade, will incorporate outside research and will be 7 to 10 pages in length. The research will help this essay accomplish several things that the shorter essays may not do: 1) It will help explain the context of your text and how that relates to your analysis, 2) It will show what other scholars have written about your chosen text, and 3) It will make an argument about the ways that the broader subject connected to your chosen text communicates. Essay #3 also emphasizes your ability to evaluate and incorporate sources effectively.
- The **Final Project**, worth 10 points (10%) of your grade, consists of a **Reflection and Revision**. This Portfolio consists of a revised Essay #1 or #2 and an essay that explains your revisions and reflects on your writing process as well as what you have learned in the course.
- **Short Assignments (SAs) and In-Class Writings**, worth 10 points (10%) of your grade, will help you prepare for each major writing project described above; SAs will be written in response to prompts posted on Blackboard, and you will post your responses to Blackboard. SAs and in-class writings (including peer review workshop responses) are pass/fail. You receive credit as long as you meet the minimum requirements for the SAs. If you do not have an SA in class when it is due,

you will lose .5 points from your participation grade. Late SAs will not be accepted, and you will lose points from your Short Assignment grade (see table below). Note: In-class writing is tied to attendance and cannot be made up.

- **Public Presentation at MoCo Farm Fresh Market:** After turning in Essay #1, we will begin to discuss what shape our class's public presentation at the MoCo Farm Fresh Market will take. Do you want to write original poetry about environmental issues and perform it? Do you want to reinterpret course readings into other art forms? Do you want to translate your essay arguments into something more visual, like a poster session? Do you want to break up into small groups, each doing something different? Assessment criteria for the presentation will be developed as a class after we decide what we will be doing, but regardless it will be worth 10 points (10%) of your grade.
- **Participation:** 10 points (10%) of your total grade count for participation. Participation has many aspects. Large group participation includes contributing to discussions, asking questions, taking notes, writing when asked to write, listening, respecting your peers and me, and anything else that shows you are actively engaged in the course. Small group participation includes the above, plus responding thoughtfully to your peers' writing. Expect to have written homework (either an SA or an analysis essay draft/final) due for every class. **It is due whether or not you are in class.**
 - Anytime you use your phone or sleep, it will result in **.5 point** deduction from your participation grade.
 - **Anytime you fail to turn in work on its due date**
 - You will lose **1 point** for not having formal writing (drafts, peer review, and all major assignments listed in table) and
 - **.5 points** for not having informal writing (reading response journal entries, in-class work, i.e. all other assigned work not listed in table. Reminder: I do not accept late SAs.).
 - In accordance with the attendance policy listed below, excessive absences will be deducted from your participation grade until you run out of participation points.
 - In the event you lose all 10 participation points, you will start losing points from your final grade. It is possible to fail the course due to missing work, late work, and absences.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

All Moravian students are responsible for upholding the academic honesty policy detailed in the [Student Handbook](#), which I highly suggest that you read. You must do your own writing for all the assignments in this course and have a full understanding of all terms and concepts you have used. If I question whether the work you have submitted is your own, I may test you on its content. Additionally, the use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented in the MLA citation style.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. The Experience of Literature is a course that includes engaged discussion, in-class writing, peer group work, and conferences. Therefore, students should not be late and should not miss class. Any in-class work missed as a result of tardiness or unexcused absence cannot be made up. Students enrolled in this course cannot miss more than a week of classes—two class meetings—without penalty. For each class meeting missed thereafter, your final course grade will be reduced by 1%.

All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. A dean's note or other official Moravian College document justifies absences for Moravian functions but must be presented to me before the scheduled event. Doctor's

appointments, job interviews, and other important appointments do not count as excused absences. If you have a legitimate conflict or an extreme emergency, discuss the situation with me.

Submitting your Work

- In-class and out-of-class writing will be assigned throughout the course. Students not in class when writing is assigned are still responsible for completion of the assignment when due.
- It is your responsibility to submit your work to Blackboard by the published assignment deadline.
- It is your responsibility to submit the correct version of your assignment.
- Students are required to keep copies of all drafts and major assignments until after the end of the semester.
- Rough drafts must be turned in prior to final drafts. Drafts should show significant changes in purpose, audience, organization, or evidence.
- Final copies should be typed and follow the appropriate MLA style guidelines for the assignment.

Late Work

Major assignments will not be accepted without penalty unless students make arrangements for an extension before the due date. Major assignments that are turned in late will incur a 5% penalty per 24-hour period. SAs and in-class writing assignments will not be accepted late under any circumstances.

Workshops

We improve as writers by responding to input from readers. To that end your essay drafts will go through extensive peer review via writing workshops. You are expected to take the input from your classmates **seriously** and respond to their feedback when you revise. You are likewise expected to take your job as a reviewer seriously. Critique others' work as you wish to be critiqued. Treat each other with respect. Each of us has areas to improve in our writing.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Writing Support

The Writing Center is a free resource for Moravian students. At the Writing Center, a trained peer tutor will work individually with you on your writing, at any point in the process from brainstorming to editing. The Writing Center is located on the second floor of Zinzendorf Hall, a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

English 104 Unit 1 Daily Course Schedule—The Nature of Nature

Be aware that a daily schedule is occasionally subject to change due to time constraints, unexpected disruptions, or needs of the class. Therefore, pay attention to announcements of any changes in assignments or due dates. These changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard. The most up to date homework will ALWAYS be posted on the class's Blackboard page. Also note that **whatever is listed for a specific day is DUE that day.**

Key to Symbols: B = the reading has been posted as course content on Blackboard
 LE = *Literature and the Environment*
 SA = Short Assignment (to be explained in detail on Blackboard)

WEEK 1

Introduce course and its emphasis on Literature and the Environment; write and share brief place-based nonfiction introductions; read and respond to texts focused on Nature

T 8-26 **Read** syllabus (in class); [Zelman's](#) "The Day A Dozen Parents and Children Killed a Shark for a Selfie" (in-class)
Draft and present place-based nonfiction narrative introductions (in class)

R 8-28 **Enroll** in English 104 A course shell on Blackboard
Read "Close Reading Chapter" (B); Emerson's [Intro](#) & [Chapter 1](#) of "Nature" (B); Emerson's "Blight" (LE 384-86); Merwin's "Rain at Night" (LE 358-59); Oliver's "The Honey Tree" (LE 3-4)
Write SA#1—The first analysis essay for this class will be an exploration of the term "nature"—what does it mean to a specific author or group of authors; how is this meaning reflected in the author's writing; through what means do they experience nature; how does this connect to your own experience with nature, etc.? To that end, your first set of SAs will be responses to readings with those questions in mind. First read the "Close Reading Chapter" on Blackboard. Then, write at least a 150 word response to each major text (Emerson's "Nature," Emerson's "Blight," Merwin's "Rain at Night," and Oliver's "The Honey Tree"—and make sure to label each response! I do not mind what direction your analyses take you for this first SA; I only ask that you move beyond mere summary (see "Analysis" reading for details).

WEEK 2

Introduce Unit 1 essay assignment; read and respond to texts focused on Nature

T 9-2 **Read** "Textual Analysis Chapter" (B); Burroughs's "Human Traits in Animals" (LE 36-40); Whitman's "I Think I Could Turn and Live with Animals" (LE 48-50); Dillard's "Living like Weasels" (LE 5-8); Leopold's "Thinking Like a Mountain" (LE 67-69); Oates's "The Buck" (LE 115-25)
Write SA#2—see Blackboard for details

R 9-4 **Read** Rowntree's "Collecting Myself" (LE 21-26); Merton's "Rain and the Rhinoceros" (LE 361- 67); hooks's "Touching the Earth" (139-43); Luther Standing Bear's "Nature" (LE 146-49)
Write SA #3—see Blackboard for details

WEEK 3

Continue to read and respond to texts focused on Nature

T 9-9 **Read** “Writing as a Process—Part I” (B); Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* chapters 1-8
Write SA #4—see Blackboard for details

R 9-11 **Read** “Writing as a Process—Part II” (B); Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* chapters 9-
end
Write SA#5—see Blackboard for details

WEEK 4

Workshop and revision

T 9-16 **Read** “Re-visioning Your Work”
Write Rough Draft Essay #1 Due

R 9-18 **Read** TBA
Write Final Draft Essay #1 Due