

English 104A Experience of Literature

(Syllabus subject to change)

Fall 2015

Blackboard (Bb) enrollment code: ENGL104AFA15

Office: Zinzendorf 303

Instructor: John Black

Office Hours: W 2:30-3:30, F 1:30-2:30,

Classroom: PPHAC 335

and by appointment

Class schedule: TTh 1:10-2:20

Email: jrblack@moravian.edu

Office Phone: 861-1390

Required texts:

DiYanni, Robert, ed. *Literature: Approaches to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008. Print. (ISBN: 978-0073124452. McGraw-Hill also provides useful online resources. Refer to the Preface of your textbook.)
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*. New York: New Directions, 2004. Print. (ISBN: 978-0811216029)
Supplemental readings and resources via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.moravian.edu>), photocopy, and reserve.

Other useful books (in Reeves Library) and web-based resources for literary study and writing:

A Handbook to Literature. Ed. by H. Holman and W. Harmon (Reference PN41 .H6 1986).

The Bedford Handbook. 8th ed. Edited by D. Hacker. (Reference PE1408 .H277; an online version is also available at http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/bedhandbook8e/#t_518572)

OWL - The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Critical Reading: A Guide (by J. Lye at Brock Univ.): <http://www.brocku.ca/english/jlye/criticalreading.html>

Course Description and Format:

Welcome to English 104! Literature is a biography of human experience – our hopes, challenges, and successes; our fears, disappointments, and failures. This class, in surveying the major modern literary genres – fiction, poetry, and drama – allows you to explore this wealth of human experience, not only in a wide variety of genres and forms, but also across a diverse collection of major authors writing on many different themes. Literature is a representation of reality; reading it requires us to interpret and to support our interpretation through close reading. Our discussions, presentations, and written assignments will help you refine the critical reading and writing skills essential not only to reading literature, but also to effective analysis and communication in general. And, along the way, you'll get to enjoy reading some great British, American, and world literature in English! While short lectures, audio-visual aids, and presentations will introduce literary periods, figures, and pieces, our class will consist primarily of discussion: *preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

Course Goals:

- Develop analytical skills to think, write, and communicate intelligently about literature
- Use textual evidence to substantiate interpretations and arguments
- Gain a command of concepts and approaches regarding literary genres
- Demonstrate the ability to apply standard literary terminology and analytical methods in a written analysis of a text
- Develop critical thinking skills to consider more fully the role that literature plays in our lives and world

Assignments - Reading Prompts, Quizzes, Presentations, Exams, and Papers:

Your best preparation for discussion and for written assignments is careful, thorough, and thoughtful reading and re-reading. 'Active reading' is the most effective and most efficient approach to a text. It is strongly recommended that you take notes on what you read.

- For most class meetings, you'll compose responses to questions, or write a brief explication or interpretation of a passage, or perhaps complete a short reading response or other short written assignment based on the assigned readings. For the reading prompts assigned as homework, keep a copy for your use in class and in reviewing for assignments and make a photocopy to hand in to me at the beginning of class. (Alternatively, you may email me a copy of your responses *before class*. Be sure to *type your name on the document you email to me.*) These short exercises help us keep up with the reading, prompt us to think about what we've read, provide us with a starting point for discussions, and serve as precursors for some of our other assignments and for the final exam essay. There are no make-up exercises; however, I will drop your lowest quiz/short response score.
- As part of a small group, you'll make a presentation to the class on some of the important contexts and terms for studying literature.
- There will also be a final exam for the course, consisting of short answer questions (passages, ID's, terms, short discussion, etc.). There is no mid-term exam.
- You will also write three short (3-4 pages each) thesis-driven essays on a selected aspect of literature (e.g., theme, characters, style, etc.) – one essay for each of the three genres we study. Please choose your topic in a timely fashion. Feel free to consult with me. Draft workshops and optional individual conferences will help you

strengthen your interpretation, its support, and your writing process as a whole. **I do not accept papers that have not been reviewed in the draft workshop process and subsequently revised. Papers and other assignments are due in class on the due dates noted on the syllabus. I do not accept or read late papers, except under very unusual circumstances.**

Further details for the short assignments, presentations, exam, and papers will be discussed in advance of the assignments.

Extra Credit: Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. To encourage you to learn more about the richness of the College and local community, students may earn extra credit through confirmed participation (usually in the form of a brief write-up) in various activities related to language, literature, and writing. Up to a total of three points of extra credit can be added at the end of the semester to a student's lowest assignment grade. One hundred points is the maximum total for the course. Some examples of eligible activities are: attending a College theater production (including *A Streetcar Named Desire* on Fri. Oct. 9), a poetry/fiction reading, submission of creative work to *The Manuscript*, meeting with a Writing Center tutor, or participating in Moravian's Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies on Dec. 5. Other, similar activities may also be eligible; please confer with me.

Attendance and Participation:

Be here: I will take roll regularly. You are expected to attend each day. **Be prompt:** Class begins at 1:10 pm sharp. **Be prepared:** Your first responsibility is to read carefully, re-read, and be prepared to discuss, both orally and in writing, all assignments. You should expect to devote several hours to preparing for each class. (A general rule of thumb for college courses is 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class.) **Participate:** Classes become more meaningful the more you engage yourself in them. **Bring your textbook to class every day.** You are expected to make comments or ask questions on the readings and topics each day. I will not hesitate to call on you if you are not contributing. Class time allotted for group work, group discussion, draft feedback, review, etc. is instructional time, not break time; you are expected to remain focused on the assigned activity for all of the allotted time.

If you know you will be absent from class, please talk to me beforehand. If you are sick, please notify me as soon as possible. *Your absence from more than three classes may affect your final grade. Every three times you come to class late or leave early without talking to me first will also count as an unexcused absence. Missing more than five classes may result in your failing the course. If you are tardy or absent, it is wholly your responsibility to determine what was covered in class and what revisions, if any, were made to the syllabus in your absence.*

Other notes: One of the qualities I expect and appreciate most in students is **personal integrity**. Students who exhibit this quality are ethical and honest, are engaged in class, turn in thoughtful assignments, are responsive to the world beyond themselves, meet deadlines, and keep me informed of any difficulties or successes they have while in my class.

- *Please refrain from bringing food into the classroom.*
- *Please arrange to go to the restroom before or after class.*
- *Please silence and put away all cell phones, etc. before coming into the classroom.*

Office Hours: Students are always welcome in my office. My office hours are times that I have set aside specifically to talk with you – not only about class and assignments, but also about life at Moravian, about something fun and exciting you've done, about challenges you're encountering, or whatever. Make use of them. I realize that it may be difficult for you to meet during my posted office hours, so I'm also readily available by appointment: [jrblack@moravian.edu](mailto:jblack@moravian.edu).

Other Resources:

- With your work on written assignments, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the help available through appointment at the Writing Center (2nd fl, Zinzendorf). For more information, visit its website at: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/appointments.htm>
- Similarly, the librarians in Reeves are very resourceful. Make it a habit of consulting with them when questions about resources for the study of literature arise. The library webpage (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves/>) is an excellent resource, offering interactive online help and research guides
- The Academic & Disability Support Office (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>) (1st fl., Monocacy Hall (861-1401) and The Counseling Center (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>) (1307 Main St., 861-1510) provide many services to help you meet the demands of college life and achieve success.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Laurie Roth, Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the lower level of Monocacy Hall (861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, is a serious breach of personal integrity and a significant violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy. Consult the *Student Handbook* <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html> and read this policy in its entirety. I take the provisions of the Academic Honesty Policy very seriously and am obliged to report any suspected cases of plagiarism, the consequences of which may be failure, suspension, or dismissal from the College. If you plagiarize, you will receive a 'zero' on the plagiarized assignment, which will very likely result in your failure for the course. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse. If at any time you have any questions about documenting sources properly (MLA style) or as to whether or not the aid you are receiving is authorized, don't hesitate to ask me. The Reeves Library online research tutorial also addresses the issue: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reevestutorial/pages/index.htm>

Evaluation: Final grades are calculated on 10-pt. scale: 90=A-, 80=B-, etc. The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative assessments in determining grades for assignments and for the course.

Essay 1: Fiction.....	15%	Group presentation.....	10%
Essay 2: Drama.....	15%	Final exam.....	20%
Essay 3: Poetry.....	15%	Class participation.....	10%
Reading prompts, quizzes, etc.....	15%		

You must complete all requirements in order to pass the course.

Syllabus

(Subject to change)

Sept.	1	T	Introduction; syllabus; policies and goals
	3	Th	Introduction to approaches to literature (1-18); useful questions for reading and writing about fiction (125-27), drama (949-50), and poetry (590-91)
	8	T	Reading and writing about fiction (27-42); Paper 1 assigned; Group presentations on short fiction assigned
	10	Th	Elements of fiction (49-66); Poe (132-37)
	15	T	Elements of fiction (66-85); Poe (144-49); Paper 1 topic due
	17	Th	Elements of fiction (85-90); O'Connor (169-72, 172-86)
	22	T	Group presentations on elements of short fiction (90-111); continue discussion of readings
	24	Th	Draft workshop for Paper 1; full draft due (bring 2 copies of draft to class); continue discussion of readings
	29	T	Baldwin (292-313); Carver (313-23); Jackson (409-15)
Oct.	1	Th	No class; work on revisions to Paper 1
	6	T	Paper 1 due; in-class reading in short fiction criticism
	8	Th	Reading and writing about drama (899-917); Paper 2 assigned; Group presentations on drama assigned
	9	F	MCTC staged reading of William's A Streetcar Named Desire (Arena Theatre, HUB, 8pm) - extra credit opportunity
	13	T	No class - Fall Break

Oct.	15	Th	Elements of drama (920-25); <i>Streetcar</i> (1-69)
	20	T	Group presentations on elements of drama (925-32); <i>Streetcar</i> (70-99)
	22	Th	<i>Streetcar</i> (100-179); Paper 2 topic due
	27	T	<i>Othello</i> (1011-47)
	29	Th	Draft workshop for Paper 2; full draft due (bring 2 copies of draft to class); continue <i>Othello</i>
Nov.	3	T	<i>Othello</i> (1047-97)
	5	Th	No class; work on revisions to Paper 2
	10	T	Paper 2 due; in-class reading in drama
	12	Th	Reading and writing about poetry (495-506); Paper 3 assigned; Group presentations on poetry assigned
	17	T	Elements of poetry (510-18); Frost: context (666-72), "Mending Wall" (674), "Home Burial" (677), "Nothing Gold Can Stay" (684-85)
	19	Th	Elements of poetry (518-36); Hughes: context (700-03), "Dream Deferred" (705), "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (706) "Mother to Son" (706), "I, Too" (708), "Theme for English B" (720-21); Paper 3 topic due
	24	T	Group presentations on poetry (548-64); "Ozymandias" (849), "We Real Cool" (775), "Mirror" (579), "When in Disgrace" (848), "Valediction" (788), "Pied Beauty" (810)
	26	Th	No class - Thanksgiving
Dec.	1	T	Draft workshop for Paper 3; full draft due (bring 2 copies of draft to class); in-class readings in poetry
	3	Th	Elements of poetry (536-48, 573-75); poetry - student selections; overview of final exam
	8	T	No class; work on revisions to Paper 3
	10	Th	Paper 3 due; course review and evaluation

The Final Exam is scheduled for Fri. Dec. 18 at 8:30am in PPHAC 335. Plan accordingly.