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 war in literature. War has been an important part of literature since the very beginning of written human history. We will concentrate on the 20th and the 21st centuries, which unfortunately were soaked with wars and war literature.

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………………………………………………..15%
3. Presentations in class……………………………………15%
4. Written works…………………………………………..25%
5. Research papers on your chosen topic…………………25%

Schedule
Week I
Monday August 27 introduction and ground rules
Wednesday August 29 Reader-writer's relationship
Week II
Monday September 3        Labor Day
Wednesday September 5      the power of words
Week III
Monday September 10        Literature and history
Wednesday September 12     Fiction and non fiction
Week IV
Monday September 17        writers as witnesses
Wednesday September 19     Texts as mirrors of their times
Week V
Monday September 24        Experiencing literature with your senses
Wednesday September 26     Freedom and war
Week VI
Monday October 1            Poetry and its liberties
Wednesday October 3         Midterm essay due
Week VII
Monday October 8            Fall Recess
Wednesday October 10        Literature as politics
Week VIII
Monday October 15           Music inspired by literature
Wednesday October 17       is translation betrayal?
Week IX
Monday October 22           Writers as immigrants to a new language
Wednesday October 24        literature relating to other forms of art
Week X
Monday October 29           War as an inspiration
Wednesday October 31        Plays and screenplays
Week XI
Monday November 5           Soldiers of words
Wednesday November 7        Drama, different examples
Week XII
Monday November 12 do we learn from the past?
Wednesday November 14 enlisting ideas
Week XIV
Monday November 19 Children’s literature
Wednesday November 21 Thanksgiving Recess
Week XV
Monday November 26 Voices, genre and gender
Wednesday November 28 final essays due
Week XVI
Monday December 3 can books change your life?
Wednesday December 5 Imagination, readers' and writers'
Week XVII
Monday December 10 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