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 literature written during the 20th and the 21st centuries. We will read writings from all over the world and compare the human experience in different cultures, countries, times and live-styles.

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………………………………………………..20%
3. Presentations in class…………………………………….10%
4. Written works………………………………………….25%
5. Research papers on your chosen topic…………………25%

**Schedule**

Week I
Monday January 14  introduction and ground rules
Wednesday January 16  what’s in a name?

Week II
Monday January 21  Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday January 23  the power of words

Week III
Monday January 28  Literature and history
Wednesday January 30  Innocence and Experience

Week IV
Monday February 4  writers as witnesses
Wednesday February 6  Texts as mirrors of their times

Week V
Monday February 11  Experiencing literature with your senses
Wednesday February 13  Freedom and war

Week VI
Monday February 18  Poetry and its liberties
Wednesday February 20  Conformity and Rebellion

Week VII
Monday February 25  Mid-term due
Wednesday February 27  Literature as politics

Week VIII
Monday March 3  Spring Recess
Wednesday March 5  Spring Recess

Week IX
Monday March 10  Writers as immigrants to a new language
Wednesday March 12  literature relating to other forms of art

Week X
Monday March 17  Culture and Identity
Wednesday March 19  Plays and screenplays

Week XI
Monday March 24  Easter Recess
Wednesday March 26  Globalization of Literature  
Week XII  
Monday March 31  do we learn from the past?  
Wednesday April 2  enlisting ideas  
Week XIV  
Monday April 7  Love and Hate  
Wednesday April 9  is translation a betrayal?  
Week XV  
Monday April 14  Voices, genre and gender  
Wednesday April 16  final essays due  
Week XVI  
Monday April 21  can books change your life?  
Wednesday April 23  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