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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 26</td>
<td>Globalization of Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week XII</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday March 31</td>
<td>do we learn from the past?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 2</td>
<td>enlisting ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week XIV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 7</td>
<td>Love and Hate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 9</td>
<td>is translation a betrayal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week XV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 14</td>
<td>Voices, genre and gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 16</td>
<td>final essays due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week XVI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 21</td>
<td>can books change your life?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 23</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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