

INTG 101-02: Introduction to Liberal Arts (Fall 2018)

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 11:00-11:50am

Classroom: CSB 272

Instructor: Andre P. Audette

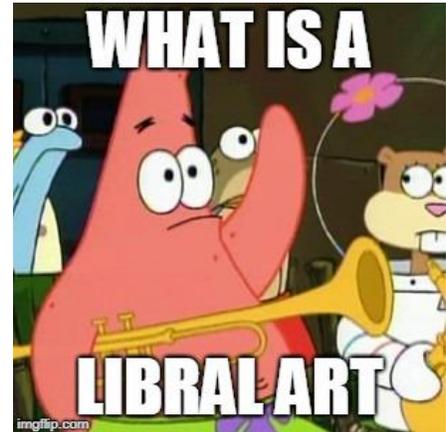
Email: audette@monmouthcollege.edu

Andre's Office: CSB 330

ILA Party Time (Office Hours): 2:30-4 MWF, 9-10:30 Tues-Thurs, and by appointment

Course Description

This seminar is required of all first year students and is taught by faculty from a number of different disciplines. Theme-related texts in the course raise basic questions about the variety of human experience, and about personal and shared values and goals. You are expected to think critically about issues raised, to participate in discussions, and to write papers on the works studied. Our theme is "The Self, the Stranger, and the Community."



The Aim of ILA

ILA is a transition into the Monmouth College learning community which values the spirit of inquiry in pursuit of academic excellence.

Course Goals

1. Students will discover the liberal arts as a means to engage with questions of human values, purposes, and communities. Students will learn that a liberal arts education can be transformative, preparing them to pursue fulfilling personal and professional lives.
2. Students will understand key components for engaging in the intellectual challenges of college and for becoming life-long learners. These components include adopting attitudes of inquiry and curiosity, functioning from a growth-mindset, approaching the tasks of learning with tenacity and resiliency, and seeking excellence rather than perfection.
3. Students will consider the dynamic relationships between the Self, the Stranger, and the Community and will discover that their own sense of self and their engagement with the community affects their quality of life and the lives of those around them.
4. Students will understand that reading is an active and engaged process in which texts are analyzed and questioned, and that texts are sources not only of learning but also of enjoyment.

Required Texts

The following books are available in the campus bookstore or other online retailers:

- Hacker and Sommers. 2016. *The Bedford Handbook, 10th ed.* St. Martin's Press.
 - Keep this book for ENGL 110 and COMM 101, as well as for future courses!
- Haidt, Jonathan. 2006. *The Happiness Hypothesis.* Basic Books.
- hooks, bell. 2001. *All About Love.* William Morrow.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. 1999. *Interpreter of Maladies.* Mariner Books.
- Sanders, Matthew L. 2012. *Becoming a Learner: Realizing the Opportunity of Education.* Institute for Communication and Leadership. (You got this for free)
- Walls, Jeannette. 2005. *The Glass Castle.* Scribner.
- The ILA Reader. 2018. University Readers. (Only available at the bookstore)

Course Requirements

To help you achieve the course objectives, final grades will be assessed through the following evaluations:

- Reading-based assessments (45%)
- Reflective and response writing (20%)
- Final exam (15%)
- Participation (20%)

Further information on these course requirements will be distributed in class

Reading-based assessments

Since this is a reading-based course, every day there will be a quiz, homework question, or writing assignment based on each of the readings for class. Some of these will be short in-class activities, others will require work outside of class. Examples include a close reading essay, annotation assignments, and weekly mini-essays.

Reflective and response writing

Over the course of the semester, you will attend several Convocations (more on that later) and at least three other educational events. Afterwards, you'll be asked to write short reflections on those events and how they relate to the themes of the class. At various points during the semester, you will also be asked to reflect on your participation and what you have learned about the liberal arts.

Final exam

There will be an open-notes comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

Participation

A large part of our class will be based on discussion. Therefore, it is essential that you come to class ready to actively participate. This includes (but is not limited to): attending class regularly, carefully reading and annotating the assigned texts, sharing your thoughts, opinions, and insights in discussion, considering and raising opposing viewpoints, engaging in respectful dialogue with others, listening attentively to others' perspectives, and following the discussion policies listed in this syllabus.

Course Engagement Expectations

- Classroom activities (3.3 hours/week)
- Reading and class prep (6 hours/week)
- Papers and exam prep (3 hours/week)

Total: 12.3 hours/week

Grade Scale

A (93-100), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), C+ (77-79.9), C (73-76.9), C- (70-72.9), D+ (67-69.9), D (63-66.9), D- (60-62.9), F (<60)

Course Policies and Additional Resources

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to be familiar with and uphold the academic honesty policy of MC, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://ou.monmouthcollege.edu/life/residence-life/scots-guide/academic-regulations.aspx>). Any student found to have violated these policies of academic integrity will receive a failing grade on the assignment and may be subject to further penalties by the College, including suspension or expulsion. If you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism or any of the other policies, please come talk to me.

Late Work/Extra Credit

An important part of academic and career preparation is the ability to meet deadlines and fulfill the requirements of your work. Therefore, late assignments will be subject to a half-letter grade reduction for every 0-24 hour period that the assignment is late. Daily class work cannot be turned in late. Additionally, there will be no extra credit given on an individual basis.

Laptops and Electronic Devices

Unless instructed otherwise, you are permitted to use laptops in class for note-taking purposes only. Cell phones and other electronics should be put away during class. To do otherwise detracts not only from your learning, but from other students' as well.

Attendance

Since ILA is a seminar course that revolves around class discussion, it is particularly important for you to be in class to benefit from all that your fellow student-scholars and the instructor have to offer. Thus, you are expected and required to attend all regular MWF meetings of this course and all Thursday events, whether they are Convocations, Join-Sessions, or regular Mentoring Thursday sessions.

You are allowed to miss four sessions for any reason without any penalty to your grade. However, on your fifth absence, you fail the course. College-sanctioned events are excused from this policy, but a reduction in the final grade may be an outcome of too many excused absences. If you feel you may miss more than four unexcused absences, contact Student Affairs who may then act on your behalf.

Because seminar participation is closely tied to discussions of texts, you will be considered absent on any day that you do not have your required text in class.

Discussion Policies

The goal of discussion is to understand and learn from the viewpoints and experiences of others in order to better understand our own opinions and the functioning of the world around us. Your participation is important for the learning experiences of your fellow classmates and your instructor. Therefore, participation will be graded on the quality, and not just quantity, of your contribution to class. To create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to participate, respect for individual differences and viewpoints will be maintained at all times. You are allowed and encouraged to disagree with other students, the professor, or the texts, but disagreement should always be expressed in a respectful manner inside and outside of the classroom.

Writing Center and Tutoring – take advantage of these resources!!

The Writing Center offers unlimited, free peer tutoring sessions for MC students. Peer writing tutors are trained to work with writers from any major of any writing ability, on any type of writing assignment, and at any stage of their writing processes, from planning to drafting to revising to editing. The Writing Center is located on the 3rd floor of the Mellinger Teaching and Learning Center, and is open Sunday-Thursday 7-10pm and Monday-Thursday 3-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment necessary!

All students can also make a free appointment with a Teaching and Learning Center tutor or stop by during drop-in hours. This is not just for struggling students, but for all who want to get better grades, learn stronger study skills, and be able to effectively manage their time. Information about tutoring services is available at:

<http://ou.monmouthcollege.edu/academics/teaching-learning-center/tutoring.aspx>.

Disabilities and Learning Differences

Any student who feels they may need support or accommodation for a disability should visit the Teaching and Learning Center on the 2nd floor of Poling Hall to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations. I am happy to work with you and Disability Services to provide those accommodations. For more information, visit:

<http://ou.monmouthcollege.edu/life/disability-services/default.aspx>.

Counseling Services

Counseling Services assists students in addressing personal, social, career, and study problems that can interfere with your academic progress and success. All services are free and can include individual and group counseling, crisis consultations, and wellness groups. The Counseling Center is located in the lower level of Poling Hall, and appointments can be made by calling Student Affairs at x2114 or by email to hfisher@monmouthcollege.edu or cbeadles@monmouthcollege.edu. You can find more info online at:

<https://ou.monmouthcollege.edu/life/counseling-services/appointments.aspx>.

Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus or the course schedule if it will benefit all students. Advance notice will be provided for any changes.

Exceptions, Extensions, and Exemptions

Exceptions to the policies and schedule on this syllabus are granted only in the cases of a true emergency. Please make arrangements with me if an emergency arises.

Questions, Concerns, Comments

If you have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to contact me! I encourage you to come to my office hours even if you just want to chat, and I can set up appointments if you are unable to meet during the scheduled times. (Please try to give me at least 24 hours notice if you'd like to make an appointment.)

Be good

Do good

Challenge assumptions

Course Outline and Schedule

*Reading assignments are to be completed before the date they are listed.

*Please bring all assigned readings, notes, and a notebook to class.

Monday, Aug. 20th

- The long one ☺

Wednesday, Aug. 22nd

- “Only Connect” – ILA Reader

Thursday, Aug. 23rd

- Convocation: “What is a Liberal Arts Education?” (David Timmerman)

Friday, Aug. 24th

- “How to Get the Most Out of College” (emailed)
- “8 Ways to Improve a Question” – ILA Reader

Monday, Aug. 27th

- *Bedford Handbook* – chap. 4
- “Allegory of the Cave” – ILA Reader

Wednesday, Aug. 29th

- “How to Read a Book: The Ultimate Guide by Mortimer Adler” (emailed)
- Listen to “Are You Out of Plato’s Cave” (emailed)

Thursday, Aug. 30th

- Mentor-led section on time management and syllabi

Friday, Aug. 31st – NO CLASS (ANDRE IN BOSTON FOR A CONFERENCE)

- Read and annotate “Wait, What?” – ILA Reader

Monday, Sept. 3rd

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – introduction
- Discuss “Wait, What?”

Wednesday, Sept. 5th

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 1
- Listen to “The Happiness Hypothesis” interview (emailed)

Thursday, Sept. 6th

- Dahl Chapel: Off-Campus Study

Friday, Sept. 7th

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 2

Monday, Sept. 10th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 3-31

Wednesday, Sept. 12th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 32-61

Thursday, Sept. 13th

- Dahl Chapel: Academic Integrity

Friday, Sept. 14th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 62-90

Monday, Sept. 17th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 91-125

Wednesday, Sept. 19th

- “How Shall I Live? Constructing a Life Story in the College Years” – ILA Reader

Thursday, Sept. 20th

- Dahl Chapel: Growth Mindset

Friday, Sept. 21st

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 129-154

Monday, Sept. 24th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 155-175

Wednesday, Sept. 26th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 175-213

Thursday, Sept. 27th

- Convocation: Hannah Schell

Friday, Sept. 28th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 214-241

Monday, Oct. 1st

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 8

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 245-268

Thursday, Oct. 4th

- California Critical Thinking Skills Assessment – CSB 323

Friday, Oct. 5th

- *The Glass Castle* – pgs. 269-288

Monday, Oct. 8th

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 7

Wednesday, Oct. 10th

- For one hour, go online and read/take notes about whether “the self” actually exists

Thursday, Oct. 11th - Monday, Oct. 15th - NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

Wednesday, Oct. 17th

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 6

Thursday, Oct. 18th

- Convocation: Precious Davis

Friday, Oct. 19th

- *All About Love* – chap. 1

Monday, Oct. 22nd

- *All About Love* – chaps. 2-3

Wednesday, Oct. 24th

- *All About Love* – chap. 4

Thursday, Oct. 25th

- Dahl Chapel: Registrar

Friday, Oct. 26th

- *All About Love* – chaps. 8-9

Monday, Oct. 29th

- “Why You Should Talk to Strangers” – ILA Reader

Wednesday, Oct. 31st

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 4

Friday, Nov. 2nd

- *The Happiness Hypothesis* – chap. 3

Monday, Nov. 5th

- “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Wednesday, Nov. 7th

- “A Temporary Matter” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Thursday, Nov. 8th

- Convocation: Mariela Shaker

Friday, Nov. 9th

- “This Blessed House” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Monday, Nov. 12th

- “Sexy” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Wednesday, Nov. 14th

- “The Treatment of Bibi Haldar” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Thursday, Nov. 15th

- “The Undeclared Major” – ILA Reader
- Mentor-led section on Mentoring Map

Friday, Nov. 16th

- “The Third and Final Continent” in *Interpreter of Maladies*

Monday, Nov. 19th

- Readings on Community (emailed)

Wednesday, Nov. 21st - Friday, Nov. 23rd – NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

Monday, Nov. 26th

- “This Morning, This Evening, So Soon” – ILA Reader

Wednesday, Nov. 28th

- “Feel Me. See me. Here Me. Reach Me.” – ILA Reader

Friday, Nov. 30th

- “The Definition of Racism: A System of Power, Privilege, and Oppression” – ILA Reader

Monday, Dec. 3rd

- Short readings selected by the class

Wednesday, Dec. 5th

- Practice for final exam and the last class day ☹

Tuesday, Dec. 11th

- Final exam at 8am (sorry!)