

**INTG 101-16 – Introduction to Liberal Arts
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Audra Goach Sostarecz
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Office Hours: 10:00am - 10:50am M
10:00am – 10:50am W
11:00am – 11:50am R
1:00pm – 1:50pm F
others by appointment

Lecture: MTWRF 11:00-11:50am; HT 213 (except as noted for convocations)

***Dahl Auditorium for convocations

Websites:

ILA Class Website: <http://personal.monm.edu/asostarecz/default.htm>

ILA Homepage: <http://www.monm.edu/ila/>

MC Academic Calendar: <http://www.monm.edu/academics/academic-calendar.htm>

Required Textbooks: Listed in tentative order of reading.

Ker Conway, Jill. *The Road from Coorain*. First Vintage Books, New York 1990.

Burrell, Paul. *A Royal Duty*. Signet, New York 2004.

Kennedy, Robert F. *Thirteen Days*. W. W. Norton, New York 1999.

Muller, Richard. *Physics for Future Presidents: The Science behind the Headlines*.

W.W. Norton & Co., New York 2008.

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*. Emeryville, CA: Seal, 2004.

Other Required Materials:

Monmouth College Introduction to the Liberal Arts Handbook, 2009 (distributed in class).

Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook*. 7th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006.

Other texts and handouts may be distributed throughout the semester.

Goals of Introduction to the Liberal Arts: (For further information, refer to the ILA Handbook)

1. Engage in the practice of reading, in order to see books as sources of pleasure as well as knowledge.
2. Engage in an effective critical thinking process.
3. Utilize an effective writing process.
4. Demonstrate proficient oral engagement and active listening skills.
5. Explain the distinctiveness and value of a liberal arts education.
6. Argue for qualities of an “exemplary life.”

Grading:

Formal Writing, Informal Writing, Research/Library Assignment

10% – Journals and Other Informal Writing Activities

5% – Essay 1: Diagnostic/Introductory Formal Essay

9% – Essay 2: Autobiographical Formal Essay

11% – Essay 3: Formal Essay on Readings

11% – Essay 4: Exemplary Life Formal Essay

4% – Library Research & Annotated Bibliographies

Class Participation and Oral Communication in Class

12% – Regular Class Participation

6% – Research Presentation

2% – Monmouth College Events

Examinations and Quizzes

10% – Quizzes

20% – Final Exam

The following letter grades are guaranteed if you earn the corresponding percentage:

A → 93 ← A- → 90 ← B+ → 87 ← B

B → 83 ← B- → 80 ← C+ → 77

77 ← C → 73 ← C- → 70 ← D+ → 67 ← D

D → 63 ← D- → 60 ← F → 0

***Many thanks go to Marlo Belschner, Stacy Cordery, Rob Hale, Janeve West, and Michael Sostarecz.
This syllabus is an adaption from a combination of their experiences and ideas from past ILA courses. ***

Assignment Requirements and Expectations.

A. Informal Writings, Formal Writing and Research/Library Assignment

- 1) **Journal:** Journal entries (informal writings) are due at the beginning of class and should generally be around 250 words each. You should submit your journal to asostarecz@monm.edu via e-mail **AS A MICROSOFT WORD ATTACHMENT** with the subject header Journal # (fill in the number after the number sign). You should also bring a hard copy of the journal to class. Make sure to save electronic copies of your entries. When I grade the journals, I consider how well you answered the question or responded to the text or convocation, how well you supported your response with evidence and explanation, and how clearly you wrote the response. You will receive specific assignments for journal entries in class.
- 2) **Other Informal writings:** You will be expected to write informally on a regular basis. These writings will occur both in and out of class. Specific topics and format for informal writing assignments will be given.
- 3) **Diagnostic/Introductory Formal Essay:** This thesis-based essay will be assigned during the first week of class and should be 500-750 words (2-3 pages) typed and double-spaced. You will be given one week after getting your essay back to revise it.
- 4) **Autobiographical Formal Essay:** Write a 500-1250 word (2-5 pages) autobiographical essay about an important event in your life. The essay should reveal something significant about you (the purpose) to someone who doesn't know you well but who you want to know you better (the audience). The story should be entertaining, memorable, and controlled. You should use vivid and specific details to describe events and people. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.
- 5) **Formal Essay on Readings:** Write a 500-1250 word (2-5 pages) thesis-driven, argumentative essay addressing an idea in either *A Royal Duty*, *Thirteen Days*, or *Physics for Future Presidents* supported by evidence and explanation. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.
- 6) **Exemplary Life Formal Essay:** A 500-1250 word (2-5 pages) thesis-driven, argumentative essay based on what it means to live an exemplary life. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.
- 7) **Library Research & Annotated Bibliographies:** Princess Diana was thought to be a humanitarian. Choose a foundation/cause that Princess Diana volunteered for/supported. Explain this foundation/cause and what Princess Diana did to support it. Generate an annotated bibliography that summarizes and evaluates your sources. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.

B. Class Participation/Oral communication in class

- 1) **Class Participation:** Regular class participation is mandatory. See below and also Attendance and Participation (ILA web page).
- 2) **Monmouth College Participation:** ILA students are required to attend at least one Monmouth College sporting event, one music event, one theater event, and one art opening/event this semester. You will then be required to complete an informal writing assignment based on the attendance of these event. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.
- 3) **Oral presentations:** In groups of 2 or 3, you will make a ~15 minute argumentative presentation on a topic from *Physics for Future Presidents*. You will receive additional details on this assignment in class.

C. Exams and Quizzes

- 1) **Quizzes:** There will be both announced and unannounced quizzes in order to determine your reading comprehension.
- 2) **Final Exam:** A comprehensive final essay exam.

There will be no make-up exams or quizzes except in extreme extenuating circumstances as determined by the professor.

Course Policies: For further information, refer to the ILA Handbook or the ILA Homepage

Attendance: This course is fueled by active and engaged inquiry by the entire class who you should view as an educated and prepared audience for your ideas and questions. Since this course is a seminar course that revolves about class discussion, it is particularly important for you to be in class to benefit from all that your fellow student-scholars and instructor have to offer. **Attendance is therefore required.** You may miss three class periods for unexcused absences; after three unexcused absences, you will fail the course. This is the ILA policy for all sections. You may submit work in advance. Please contact me regarding extended medical absences.

Missed Assignments/Class Work/Presentations: Presentation/ quizzes will be rescheduled in ONLY extraordinary circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Written assignments which are handed in any time after class on the "due date" will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per day. This includes assignments that are handed in immediately after class on the due date.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: The following is taken from the Monmouth College policy on academic dishonesty:

We view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined here in the Scots Guide, and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit;
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments specified as group projects by the instructor;
4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.

Please note that this list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Additional Information on Academic Dishonesty: If you are unclear about whether you are plagiarizing or not, ask. If a final paper submitted for a grade includes words or ideas from a source that you did not cite then you will fail the course and the incident will be recorded on your permanent college record. As a precaution, all work submitted for a grade will also be submitted electronically through Turnitin.com.

Readings and Handouts: Students will be given reading assignments from the text, as well as numerous handouts. It is the responsibility of the student to read and maintain all materials, as well as gather all materials, notes, and handouts covered during the student's absence. To obtain information that was missed due to an absence, the student must meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment.

Civility in the Classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure such an environment, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, eating or drinking, making offensive and/or defamatory remarks, reading newspapers/magazines, sleeping, bringing a weapon of any kind, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom. In the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will note the behavior and expect it to immediately cease. In case of a second violation the student will lose their daily participation points and the instructor could schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the Civility in the Classroom policy. In the case of a third violation, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the student will be notified that their behavior could result in the immediate removal from the course and immediate referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Students with Special Needs: If you are a student with special educational needs, please inform the professor personally as to the nature of those needs, in writing via e-mail, within one week of the beginning of the course or the receipt of this syllabus. Please consult the appropriate college offices for further information. Students requesting accommodations because of a physical or mental challenge need to be registered with this office in order for the professor to grant accommodations. Mid-term or ex-post facto appeals to physical or mental challenge will only be considered when requested in written with an explanation of why the accommodations were not requested at the beginning of the semester in writing and when the student had not contacted the appropriate college offices prior to that request. The professor is committed to maintaining a "level playing field" and will not grant accommodations that would unfairly advantage challenged or non-challenged students. Non-challenged students who feel that they have been disadvantaged by the granting of an accommodation to a fellow student are asked to provide information on that situation to the professor in writing within three weeks of their first knowledge of the date of the accommodation being made, or when it comes to the attention of the non-challenged student.