

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course	Course Number:	ENG 339
<b>ENGLISH 339: ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE (Same as ASN 339)</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

Representative works reflective of the collective experiences of Asian American writers are analyzed. Fiction, poetry, drama and nonfiction written from Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Southeast Asian cultural perspectives are discussed.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Hagedorn, Jessica, ed. *Charlie Chan Is Dead: An Anthology of Contemporary Asian American Fiction*. Preface: Elaine Kim. New York: Penguin, 1993.

Hwang, David Henry. *M Butterfly*. New York: Plume, 1986.

Cheung, King-kok, ed. *An Interethnic Companion to Asian American Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997.

Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. New York: Penguin, 1989.

Kim, Elaine. *Asian American Literature: An Introduction to the Writings and Their Social Context*. Philadelphia: Temple U. Press, 1982.

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read varied works of literature and write responses to some of them

in a log or journal. A midterm examination and a final will be given, and students will be expected to participate in class discussions and group work, and oral reports may be included. Written work will include formal essays, one of which may entail research. Final grades will be based primarily on written work, including examinations, essays, and quizzes, but class participation, a reading log and oral reports, if any, may be important.

#### F. General Education Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

#### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

#### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

#### G. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-3: Background and Introduction

A. Introduction  
"Persimmons"

**Diagnostic Essay**

- B. Historical background; Short stories by Sui Sin Far
- C. “The Great Grandfather of...”
- D. “No Name Woman”
- E. “The Laws” and “Railroad Standard Time”

Weeks 4-6:

- A. “Introduction” and “Chang” **Take-Home Topics**
- B. “A Read Sweater”
- C. “Eucalyptus”
- D. “The Chauvinist” **Take-Home Due**

Weeks 7-9:

- A. Excerpt from *Itsuka*
- B. “Fictive Fragments...:”
- C. “Empty Heart”
- D. “Melpomene Tragedy” **Midterm Paper Due**
- E. “Faith”; excerpt from *Clay Walls*
- F. “I Would Remember”; “The Bread of Salt”

Weeks 10-12:

- A. “Immigration Blues; “Manhattan Music”
- B. “A Father”
- C. Trinh T. Minh-ha: *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*
- D. Excerpts from *Watermark* **Take-Home Topics**

Weeks 13-15:

- A. *M. Butterfly* **Take-Home II Due**
- B. Poetry
- C. “The Girl Who Wouldn’t Sing” **Finals Due**