Title of Course: ENGLISH 360
Course Number: ENG 360
Class Hours per Week: 3
Lab Hours: 0
Credits: 3

A. Description:

Italian American literature surveys fiction, poetry, and drama throughout the history of Italian Americans in the United States beginning in the first half of the twentieth century and continuing into contemporary America. This literature will be considered in the context of recurring themes in the artistically framed experiences of Italian Americans beginning in the first half of the twentieth century and continuing into contemporary America: cultural-national identity conflict, anti-colonization by church and state, religion, gender relations, generational differences and relations, class conflict, for example working class vs. the bourgeois, or working class immigrant and sons and daughters vs. the dominant American culture, the problem of education in early Italian American history, the dilemma of cultural and linguistic loss, intercultural conflict, intracultural conflict, family values, oppression, social dysfunction, and assimilation.

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

History:

Prose:
Early Contact/First Stage (choose one):

Conflict/Second Stage (choose three, possibly four if *Son of Italy* is not used):


Assimilation/Third Stage (choose one):

Poetry (choose two or three):
de Vries, Rachel Guido. *How to Sing to a Dago*. Toronto: City Lights, 1996.

Drama (choose two or three):

Other Suggested Texts:
Anthony Julian Tamburri, Paolo A. Giordano, and Fred L. Gardaphé, eds. *From the Margin: Writings in Italian Americana*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue UP, 2000. (This may be used
extensively during the prose and poetry units.)

Other Resources:
Library, web resources, CD’s (featuring Italian and Italian American music), DVD’s (featuring documentaries and movies), and the many cultural offerings of the John D. Calandra Institute of Italian American Studies.

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Oral Presentation (15%): One thoroughly planned and well-developed three-five minute presentation on a question of interest arising from the readings is given on an assigned day. Missing the assigned day of your presentation constitutes an F in the assignment.

Quizzes (15%): Frequent reading comprehension quizzes throughout the term will insure the student consistently does the reading.

Midterm Exam (15%): This exam reviews the lectures and literature covered during the first six weeks of classes. This will be a short essay question exam.

Final Exam (15%): This exam will review the course material throughout the term. This will be a short essay question exam.

Two Formal Writing Assignments (15% each): Two well-organized analytical papers (4-6 typed, double spaced pages) require the student to closely read literary texts by synthesizing relevant course material presented in lectures and readings with a research component--using MLA Style.

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. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

**Use of Technology**
At the very least, students will be expected to word process their submitted written work. Otherwise, instructional technology remains at the discretion of the instructor.

F. **Outline of Topics:**

**Novel**

Week One: Course introduction; Italian American novel introduction  
Weeks Two through Five: Discussion of readings; oral presentations begin  
Week Six: Continued discussion of readings; first formal writing essay due  
Weeks Seven and Eight: Continued discussion of readings  
Week Nine: Conclude discussion of readings; midterm exam

**Poetry**

Week Ten: Italian American poetry introduction; discussion of readings  
Week Eleven: Continued discussion of readings  
Week Twelve: Conclude discussion of readings; second formal essay due; oral presentations conclude

**Drama**

Week Thirteen: Italian American drama introduction; discussion of readings  
Week Fourteen: Conclude discussion of readings  
Week Fifteen: Final exam