

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 382
ENGLISH 382 AMERICAN LITERATURE: FROM THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA TO THE PRESENT	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

Though English 381 is not a prerequisite, this course begins where 381 leaves off and covers select fiction and poetry from the Gilded Age of the late nineteenth century to the present. Students study major writers and literary movements; and an effort is made to place literature in its cultural context. Works by such writers as Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Henry James, T.S. Eliot, Richard Wright, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Toni Morrison may be included.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

Note: English 381 is not a prerequisite for English 382. Either course may be taken separately.

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

Instructors may use one of the standard anthologies of American literature, such as the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. 2, the *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. 2, or similar collections by Harper, MacMillan, St. Martin's, or Harcourt, Brace.

In addition, instructors usually assign paperback editions of novels such as Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, James's *Washington Square*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Wright's *Native Son*, Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, and Morrison's *Sula*.

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read a large number of stories, poems, plays, and essays, as well as a few novels. Quizzes may be given on some readings, or a journal may be assigned in which students record their responses to selected readings. A long term paper or a series of short essays will be assigned, and a midterm examination and a final will be given. Final grades will be based primarily on written work, but class participation, including small group discussions or oral reports, is also important.

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).

F. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Course Procedures and Overview

Weeks 2-4 America after the Civil War: Fiction and Poetry

- A. Dickinson's Poetry: Women's Lives and Perspectives
- B. *Puddn'head Wilson* and Racial Intolerance; Plessy vs. Ferguson
- C. *Washington Square*: Realism vs. Romanticism; the Generation Gap

Weeks 5-7: The Great War and Modernism

- A. Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
- B. Eliot's *The Waste Land*; Pound's Poems

Weeks 8-10: The Jazz Age and Harlem Renaissance

- A. *The Great Gatsby*: The American Dream, Illusion and Reality
- B. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*: Black and Female Versions of the American Dream

Weeks 11-14: Literature in America after World War II

- A. *Death of a Salesman* and *A Raisin in the Sun*: the American Family
- B. *Sula* and *The Joy Luck Club*: Changes in Women's Lives
- C. Confessional Poetry: Roethke, Sexton, Rich, the Beat Poets
- D. Final Examination