

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 383
ENGLISH 383: THE AMERICAN NOVEL	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 383 focuses on the gradual emergence of the American novel both as a literary form and as a reflection and reinforcement of patterns in the fabric of American life. Representative authors may include Hawthorne, Melville and Stowe from the 19th century; Lewis, Cather, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Hemingway and Steinbeck from the 1920s to the 1950s; and Wright and Mailer of the 1960s and 1970s.

B. Prerequisites and 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

Readings may include some of the following novels in paperback editions:

James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans; The Pioneers*

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*

Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn, Pudd'nhead Wilson*

Steven Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage; Maggie, a Girl of the Streets*

Henry James, *Washington Square; Daisy Miller*

Richard Wright, *Native Son*

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
William Faulkner, *Light in August; The Sound and the Fury*
Ken Kesey, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*
Toni Morrison, *Sula; The Bluest Eye*
Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior*

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students are required to read from six to eight novels, depending on length, and to take quizzes on them or maintain a journal recording their responses to themes or characters in them. They will be expected to write a long term paper or a series of short essays, and a midterm examination and final will be given. Final grades will be based on written work as well as class participation, which may include small group discussions or oral reports.

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: Romanticism and the Frontier; the Romantic Hero/Heroine

- A. The Origins of the Novel in America
- B. The Frontier: Cooper
- C. The Romantic Individualist: Hawthorne, Melville

Weeks 5-8: Realism and Social Forces in the Gilded Age

- A. Romanticism vs. Realism in Twain
- B. The Rich and the Poor: James and Crane

Weeks 9-11: The Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance

- A. Illusion and Reality: Fitzgerald and Steinbeck
- B. Toward Civil Rights: Wright and Ellison; Faulkner

Weeks 13-14: Postwar America and the Novel

- A. The Individual vs. Institutions: Kesey and Salinger
- B. Women's Issues and Social Reality: Morrison and Tan