

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 393
ENGLISH 393: JEWISH LITERATURE	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 393 will focus on the central precepts and problems of Jewish culture as seen in literature by and about Jews in the myriad of countries in which they have lived. Literature from biblical through modern times will be included. As a comparative literature course, English 393 will emphasize the comparison of Jewish literature with other ethnic literature.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

Note: No previous background in Judaic literature is required.

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

Some recommended texts are the following:

The Bible (according to the Masoretic text); readings from Genesis, the Prophets and Writings
Selected Readings from the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry: Maimonides, Yehuda Halevi,
Solomon Ibn Gibirol

Buber, *Tales of the Hasidim*

I.B. Singer, *Gimpel the Fool and Other Stories*

Saul Bellow, *Seize the Day; Modern Jewish Stories*

Joyce Antler, ed., *Short Stories by American Jewish Writers: America and I*

Bernard Malamud, *The Assistant; The Fixer*

Chaim Potok, *The Chosen; The Promise; My Name is Asher Lev*

Blocker, ed., *Israeli Stories*

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read works of different periods in relation to themes listed in the outline of topics below. Students will discuss their ideas on each topic before and after the readings and note the differences in their perceptions. Students will be responsible for term papers and project reports in which one of these topics is discussed and explored through supplementary readings. Grades will be based on these reports as well as the midterm examination and the final. Class participation will also influence the term grade.

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: Class Procedures and Overview

Week 2: The Jew as Seeker of Knowledge

Week 3: The Jews as "the Chosen People"

Week 4: The Jew as Wanderer

Week 5: The Jew as Rememberer of Zion

Week 6: The Jew as "Outside History"

Weeks 7-9: Jews in the Holocaust

Weeks 10-12: Jews in the Diaspora

Weeks 13-14: Jews and Israel