

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 394
<b>ENGLISH 394: MODERN EUROPEAN NOVEL</b>	Class Hours per Work:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

In English 394, European social and political ideas as they are reflected in the works of such novelists as Gide, Silone, Koestler, Camus, Sartre, Mann and Kafka are examined and analyzed.

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

Some important novels that may be included are the following:

Albert Camus, *The Stranger*  
Marguerite Duras, *The Sea Wall; The Lover*  
Ignazio Silone, *Bread and Wine*  
Franz Kafka, *The Trial*  
Andre Malraux, *Man's Fate*  
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*  
Andre Gide, *The Immoralist*  
Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice; Buddenbrooks*  
Heinrich Mann, *Professor Unrat (The Blue Angel)*  
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*  
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Nausea*  
Miguel de Unamuno, *Mist, A Tragicomic Novel*  
Alain Robbe-Grillet, *The Erasers*  
Claude Simon, *The Flanders Road*

Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

#### E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read seven or eight novels, depending on length and difficulty, and to take quizzes on them or maintain a journal recording their responses to important ideas, passages, or characters. A midterm examination and a final will be given, and a long term paper or a series of short essays will be assigned. Final grades will be based primarily on exams and written work, but class participation, which may include small group discussions or oral reports, will also be taken into account.

#### **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).

#### F. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Class Procedures and Overview

Weeks 2-5: The Modern Outlook: Modernism and the Irrational

- A. Sartre and Camus: Existentialism, Alienation and the Absurd
- B. Kafka and the Surreality of Modern Life
- C. The Outsider: Gide, Mann

Weeks 6-9: War and Political Involvement

- A. World War I: Remarque
- B. Revolution: Malraux
- C. Political Commitment: Koestler and Silone

Weeks 10-12: Psychological and Sexual Awareness: Mann and Duras

Weeks 13-14: The Nouveau Roman: Experimentation with Form

- A. Robbe-Grillet and Simon
- B. Contemporary Explorations: Kundera