Proposal for a New Course

NOTE: All gray text boxes must be completed (even if you just put N/A into them), otherwise the committee must consider the form incomplete.

1. Department: **Jewish Studies**

2. Course Number and Title: **JWST 245/ENGL 191: Introduction to Jewish-American Literature**
   Number of Credits: 3  Total hrs/week: 3
   Lecture: ☒  Lab: ☐  Recitation: ☐  Seminar: ☐

   For Independent study courses:
   Research: ☐  Field experience: ☐
   Clinical Practice: ☐  Internship: ☐
   Practicum: ☐  Independent Course Work: ☐

3. Semester and year when course will first be offered:
   **Fall 2010**

4. Catalog Description (please limit to 50 words):
   **An introduction to Jewish-American literature from the 20th century to the present.**

5. Check if appropriate: Humanities: ☒  Social Science: ☐  (meets minimum degree requirements)

6. Check if appropriate: ☒
   This course will be cross listed with: **Jewish Studies/English**
   Rationale for cross listing: **The works being studied are significant contributions both to American Jewish culture and to American literature.**
   Please attach letters of support from the chairs of each department indicating that the department has discussed the proposal and supports it.

7. a) Could another department or program also be a logical originator of this course (i.e. History of American Education could originate in both the Teacher Education and the History departments)? If yes, what department/program? Please contact the department chair/program director and request a note or email that they are aware of the proposed new course and include that note with the proposal.
   **N/A**

   b) Please explain overlap with any existing courses.
   **There is an existing course on Jewish-American literature, ENGL 354. However, it is has not been taught often in recent years, and is aimed mainly at advanced English majors. We believe there is a broader audience for a course in this area that would attract Jewish Studies students and**
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others who are not necessarily English majors. The English Department is concerned that courses that count for the English major be taught by English faculty; since this course would not be count for the English major, it could be taught by Jewish Studies faculty.

8. Prerequisites (or other restrictions):
   None.

9. Rationale/justification for course (consider the following issues):
   a) What are the goals and objectives of the course?
      To introduce students to significant works of Jewish American literature from the 20th century to the present.

   b) How does the course support the mission statement of the department and the organizing principles of the major?
      Again, the works that will be studied are significant contributions to American Jewish culture and to American literature, and the study of these areas is central to the respective missions of Jewish Studies and English.

10. a) For courses in the major, how does the course enhance the beginning, middle, or end of the major?
     For Jewish Studies minors, this class is a topical offering that allows students to pursue a particular topic in the study of Jewish culture. It is one of the topical courses that students can use to complete their minor. As noted above, the course would not count for the English major.

       b) For courses used by non-majors, how does the course support the liberal arts tradition including linkages with other disciplines:
          This is a traditional liberal arts course that asks students to interpret significant works of literature and to understand them in their cultural and historical contexts.

11. Method of teaching:
   Lecture and discussion.

12. a) Address potential enrollment pattern shifts in the department or college-wide related to the offering of this course:
     None expected, particularly because JWST 354 has not been taught very often in recent years.

       b) Address potential shifts in staffing of the department as it relates to the offering of this course:
          None expected; Jewish Studies has staff to teach the course on a regular basis.
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c) Frequency of offering:
   each fall: ☐  each spring: ☐
   every two years: ☐  every three years: ☒
   other ☐ (Explain): ______

13. Requirements for additional resources made necessary by this course:
   a) Staff: None.
   b) Budget: None.
   c) Library: None.

14. Is this course to be added to the Degree Requirements of a Major, Minor, Concentration or List of Approved Electives?
   a) ☒ yes  ☐ no

   b) If yes, complete the Change Degree Requirements form(s) and list the name(s) of the major, minor, concentration and/or list of approved electives here:
      Jewish Studies (minor)

15. Paste syllabus, reading lists, or any additional documentation that can help the committee evaluate this proposal (a syllabus is mandatory).
   Syllabus attached.
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14. Signature of Department Chair or Program Director:

Date: 10-13-09

15. Signature of Dean of School:

Date: 10/12/09

16. Signature of Provost:

Date: 10/27/09

17. Signature of Business Affairs Official

Date:

18. Signature of Curriculum Committee Chair

Date:

19. Signature of Faculty Senate Secretary:

Date Approved by Senate: ________________

Completed form should be sent by the Faculty Senate Secretary to the Registrar. After implementation, information concerning the passed course and program changes will be provided by the Registrar to all faculty and staff on campus.
PROPOSED SYLLABUS

Instructor

Larry Krasnoff  
Office: 16 Glebe St., Room 300 
Phone: 953-4987  
E-mail: krasnoff@cofc.edu 
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-1:00

Description

An introductory survey of Jewish-American literature from the early 20th century to the present. In the years after World War II, for the first time, Jewish-American writers produced some of the most outstanding and influential fiction in the United States. We will study how this happened, and the implications that it has had. We will be interested in the ways these Jewish-American writers reflected and shaped both the changing nature of the Jewish experience in America, and the changing nature of American literary culture.

Required Texts

Abraham Cahan, *The Rise of David Levinsky*  
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*  
Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*  
Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*  
Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus*  
Joseph Heller, *Good as Gold*  
Philip Roth, *Sabbath's Theater*  
Allegra Goodman, *Kaaterskill Falls*  
Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated*

Required Work

Two short papers (25% of grade)  
One longer paper (25% of grade)  
Midterm and final exams (40% of grade)  
Attendance and class participation (10% of grade)
Schedule of Readings

Week 1  Introduction
Emerson, “The American Scholar” (www.emersoncentral.com/amscholar.htm)

Week 2  Yezierska, Bread Givers, Book I
Yezierska, Books II-III

Week 3  Cahan, Rise of David Levinsky, Books I-VII
Cahan, Books VIII-XI

Week 4  Cahan, Books XII-XIV
Roth, Call It Sleep, Book I

Week 5  Roth, Books II-III
Roth, Book IV; PAPER #1 DUE

Week 6  Bellow, Adventures of Augie March, chapters 1-7
Bellow, chapters 8-11

Week 7  Bellow, chapters 12-17
Bellow, chapters 18-22

Week 8  Bellow, chapters 23-26
MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9  Roth, Goodbye, Columbus (novella)
Roth, short stories

Week 10  Heller, Good as Gold, Parts I-V
Heller, Parts VI-VII

Week 11  Heller, Part VIII; PAPER #2 DUE

Week 12  Goodman, Kaaterskill Falls, Parts I-III
Goodman, Parts IV-VII

Week 13  Foer, Everything is Illuminated, pp. 1-160
Foer, pp. 161-276

Week 14  Roth, Sabbath’s Theater, to p. 33; read rest of novel for final exam
Summary and review; PAPER #3 DUE

FINAL EXAM due as take-home during exam period
Bob,

The English Department has discussed and unanimously supports the proposal for a new course, JWST 2xx/ENGL 19x: Introduction to Jewish-American Literature.

Trish Ward
Chair, Department of English