PROSPECTUS

JEWISH AMERICAN LITERATURE

GRMN1110-401 / JWST 1110-401/ COML 1110-401

SPRING 2023, Tuesday-Thursday 10:15-11:45 AM

FULFILLS ARTS AND LETTERS SECTOR and U. S. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Professor Kathryn Hellerstein

Office: 748 Williams Hall /6305 (GRMN)

Office Hours: Most T 4:30-5:30 PM & by appointment

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1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

What makes Jewish American literature Jewish? What makes it American? This course will address these questions about ethnic literature through fiction, poetry, drama, and other writings by Jews in America, from their arrival in 1654 to the present. We will discuss how Jewish identity and ethnicity shape literature. We will consider how form and language develop as Jewish writers "immigrate" from Yiddish, Hebrew, and other languages to American English. Using the new collection, *Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology*, we will read a variety of authors, including Isaac Mayer Wise, Emma Lazarus, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Celia Dropkin, Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, Allegra Goodman. Students who take this course will explore the ways that Jewish culture intertwines with American culture in literature.

 TEXT

(Available at the Penn Book Store, 36ᵗʰ and Walnut Streets)

Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology. Eds. Jules Chemetzky, John Felstiner, Hilene Flanzbaum, Kathryn Hellerstein. (W. W. Norton, 2001)

All students may consult with Student Financial Services to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

III.   COURSE REQUIREMENTS   Grades will be based on 1) class attendance and participation (10%); 2) periodic informal response papers, pop-quizzes, class summaries, discussion questions (as assigned) (10%); 3) two short essays (3-4 pp.) (25% each) and 4) a final 6-8 page paper (30%).