

Jewish-American literature

<p>Judaism – generally regarded as both ethnicity and religion</p>	<p>Saul Bellow (1915-2005) – born in Canada Russian-Jewish parentage</p>
<p>Jewish immigration to America First Sephardic Jews Ashkenazi (from Germany and Eastern Europe)</p>	<p>Learnt Hebrew and Yiddish as a young man</p> <p>Major novels <i>Seize the Day</i> (1956) <i>Herzog</i> (1964)</p>
<p>Jewish ancestry Topics related to Jewish issues (a basic aspect of Jewish-American literature) Key topic - the assimilation of an observant Jew in an overwhelmingly secular society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growing distance between first- and second-generation Jews • Assimilation – an orthodox family in a cosmopolitan and secular American environment - the new world against the old • Keeping one’s cultural and religious tradition in a predominantly secular society • Criticism of religious orthodoxy • The role of women in a traditional Jewish family vs. the opportunities of women in the US • Marrying outside of your cultural/religious/ethnic ‘loop’ 	<p>Bernard Malamud (1914 – 1986) <i>The Fixer</i> (1966) <i>The Natural</i> (1952) <i>The Assistant</i> (1957) <i>The Magic Barrel</i> - a collection of short stories</p> <p>Phillip Roth (1933 -) <i>Goodbye, Columbus</i> (1959) <i>Portnoy’s Complaint</i> (1969) – explicitly sexual – highly controversial <i>Human Stain</i> (2000) - has recently been filmed</p> <p>Chaim Potok (1929 – 2002) A rabbi, Polish descent <i>The Chosen</i> (1967)</p>
<p>Literature in English Literature in Yiddish (Isaac Bashevis Singer)</p>	<p>American authors with Jewish background, who are generally not anthologized as Jewish-American writers:</p>
<p>Isaac Bashevis Singer (1902 –1991) Polish, emigrated to US in 1935 Wrote in Yiddish, even though the number of its speakers was significantly reduced by the Holocaust An exemplary vegetarian</p> <p>Major works: <i>Satan in Goray</i> (1955) <i>The Slave</i> (1962) <i>Enemies, a Love Story</i> (1972) <i>Shosha</i> (1978)</p>	<p>Joseph Heller, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Woody Allen.</p> <p>Jewish ancestry is just one part of being considered a Jewish-American author. The more important “precondition” is the extent to which a certain author deals with topics related to Jewish issues</p> <p>Significant women authors: Cynthia Ozick, Grace Paley, Allegra Goodman, Rebecca Goldstein, Erica Jong</p>