

MALAMUD AND THE STRUGGLE FOR JEWISH IDENTITY

Abbreviated Study Group Name: Malamud: novels, stories

Coordinator: Stanley Bloomfield

Bernard Malamud's work often depicts complex characters and their struggle for Jewish identity. We focus on two novels, *The Fixer* (Pulitzer Prize) and *The Assistant*, as well as on the collection of stories, *The Magic Barrel* (National Book Award). These literary works show the social, political, cultural and social aspects of Jewish life in anti-Semitic societies during the early and mid 20th century. While discussion can involve Malamud's writing style with its authentic dialogue, its Chagall-like fantasy and humor, and its Christian and Greek mythical allusions, we concentrate primarily on the diverse and often paradoxical aspects of the characters in these works.

Please click [here](#) for Syllabus.

Readings:

Malamud, Bernard, *The Fixer* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004, ISBN 978-0-374-52938-3; \$16);

Malamud, Bernard, *The Assistant: A Novel* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003, ISBN 978-0-374-50484-7; \$15);

Malamud, Bernard, *The Magic Barrel: Stories* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003, ISBN 978-374-52586-6; \$15).

Stanley Bloomfield coordinated the Albee-O'Neill and Museum-Art Galleries study groups. He received a "Schools and Culture Award" as NYC Teacher of the Year.