



ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS COURSE CATALOGUE

Department of English Language and Literature

COURSE TITLE: The Short Story		
Course instructor	Irena Grubica, MA, senior lecturer	
Study programme	English language and literature	
Status of the course	Elective	
Year of study	2	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	2
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	0+0+30

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the basic themes and chronological development of the short story genre in the English language and to familiarize them with the constitutive features of the genre, as well as to give them basic knowledge about relevant cultural and theoretical models applied in the reading of literary texts and their possible use in the interpretation of some short stories. The course places emphasis on students' critical engagement with the literary text. One of the important aims of this course is to develop students' interpretive skills, analytical skills and critical thinking skills and to apply them in the analysis of a literary text.

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

Excellent command of the English language.

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course The Short Story, the students will be able to:

- name the major short story writers in Anglophone literature
- identify and compare their basic thematic concerns and stylistic innovations
- relate them to the historic period and/or literary movement to which they belong and explain their contribution to the development of the short story
- explain and compare different definitions of the short story ranging from E. A. Poe's to those by Russian

formalists (B. M. Éjxenbaum), contemporary approaches (Friedman, Lohafer, Ferguson), and those related to short story criticism by some writers (Carver, O'Connor)

- identify the basic characteristics of the short story genre related to its form and content, make a distinction between *fabula* and *syuzhet*, identify types of characterization, narrative perspective, focalisation and narration, types of 'motivation', narrative and narrated time, types of narrators
- explain the term hero and anti-hero in literature
- describe the key features of free indirect style and illustrate them with examples
- explain the term 'epiphany'
- identify connotative and denotative use of language in short stories
- identify the implications of the term *realism* for the short stories belonging to different literary movements
- name the most common literary techniques used in modernism and postmodernism and illustrate them with examples from the short stories discussed in the classroom
- define the terms ambiguity, verbal experiment, anti-story, collage, pastiche, etc. and give examples from the short stories discussed in the classroom
- name the key ideas of the most relevant approaches in literary and cultural theory and criticism used in the interpretation of a literary text including feminist criticism, psychological criticism, postcolonial criticism, identify them in the analysis of short stories discussed in the classroom, name their most important representatives and use some of their key terms in their independent analysis of short stories
- produce their own argued written and oral analysis and interpretation of different short stories

1.4. Course content

This course will familiarize students with the origins, genesis and characteristics of the short story genre which is considered to be an exemplary narrative form of the Anglophone world. It will discuss the works by the founders of short story, including E. A. Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, Katherine Mansfield, etc. The course will deal with a variety of structural and stylistic innovations relevant to the short story genre including the use of experimental narrative techniques, anti-story and fantasy. In addition to the above mentioned authors, course syllabus also includes selected works by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Doris Lessing, Flannery O'Connor, Raymond Carver, Robert Coover, John Barth, Bernard Malamud, Cynthia Ozick, Frank O'Connor, Baharati Mukherjee, Leslie Silko, etc.. In order to give students an insight into the continuity and the evolution of the genre selected short stories will be analysed in chronological order with respect to the date of their composition. The course discussions will attempt to underline the rich stylistic and rhetorical potential of the short story genre, including mimetic, mythic, allegorical, intertextual, allusive and other features of short stories. Students' individual interpretation of short stories will be encouraged, but the course will also offer a short introduction to some approaches in literary and cultural theory relevant to the interpretation of a literary text and use these approaches in the interpretation of some short stories.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops
- ✓ Distance learning
- ✓ Individual assignments
- ✓ Other: research