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AmLit 4: The American Short Story in the 20th Century AN33000BA AN3306OMA	BA Year 3 and teacher training
Fri 10 – 11.40	Rm 54

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.”

Mark Twain

Course description: The aim of this course is to introduce a variety of short story genres and give an overview of the classics (Faulkner and Hemingway) and the new voices that appeared in the second half of the 20th century (for example, science fiction, cyberpunk, Chicano, and Native American short stories). The course will provide insight into social, racial and ethnic factors influencing subjectivity, gender and the relationship between individual and power. The course will also focus on the visual representations of these genres in popular culture (for instance, the figure of the hard-boiled detective in Film Noir, the idealized image of the noble savage, or the cyberpunk world that provided the inspiration for *The Matrix* trilogy).

Evaluation:

- end-term paper (30%)
- take-home essay of 1800 - 2000 words (30%) **due date Jan 5, 2019**
- 8-10-minute oral presentation (15%)
- review of 350-400 words of a short story recommended for class discussion (10%)
- active classroom participation (3 response papers and each class will feature group discussions of specific topics) (15%)

More than 3 absences will result in no mark, just like plagiarism!

Students should be advised that the quality of their written and spoken linguistic performance will count significantly toward their final mark.

Schedule

- Sep 13 Orientation and introduction
- Sep 20 Classics: Ernest Hemingway
 “Indian Camp” and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”
- Sep 27 No class
- Oct 4 Classics: William Faulkner
 “The Bear”

- Oct 11 Southern Gothic
William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"
Eudora Welty, "At the Landing"
- Oct 18 The hard-boiled detective
Raymond Chandler, "The King in Yellow"
Walter Mosley, "Gator Green"
- Oct 25 Science fiction
Isaac Asimov, "Robbie"
Ursula K. LeGuin, "The Matter of Seggri"
- Nov 1 Consultation Week
- Nov 8 African American short stories
Alice Walker, "Really, *Doesn't* Crime Pay?"
John Keene, "Rivers"
Percival Everett, "The Appropriation of Cultures"
- Nov 15 Native American short stories
Sherman Alexie, "Every Little Hurricane" and "A Drug Called Tradition"
Leslie Marmon Silko, "Storyteller"
- Nov 22 Latino Literature and flash fiction
Sandra Cisneros, "Little Miracles, Kept Promises"
Carlos Fuentes, "Malintzin of the Maquilas"
Agustín Cadena, "The Man with His Back Turned"
Short story reviews due date
- Nov 29 Cyberpunk
William Gibson, "The Winter Market"
Bruce Stirling, "Bicycle Repairman"
- Dec 6 By popular demand: two/three short stories the group picks based on your reviews
- Dec 14 End-term test

Evaluation in exam period

Set texts

You can find the classics in the library, the rest of the short stories and the theoretical background are available in an electronic course packet in the library (bring a USB stick) OR the materials are also available in Google Drive.

General background readings (a good starting point for your presentation topics):

Critical Insights: American Short Story. eds. Michael Cocchiarale and Scott D. Emmert. Ipswich, Mass: Salem Press, 2015.

Scofield, Martin. *The Cambridge Introduction to the American Short Story*. NY: Cambridge UP, 2006.

The Columbia Companion to the Twentieth-Century American Short Story. eds. Blanche H. Gelfant and Lawrence Graver. NY: Columbia UP, 2000.

Theoretical background texts to be discussed in class:

Anderson, Jon. "Chapter 5: Taking and Making Place – The Stuff of Power." *Understanding Cultural Geography: Places and Traces*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015. 75-90.

Butler, Judith. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory." *Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory*. Eds. Katie Conboy, Nadia Medina, Sarah Stanbury. New York: Columbia UP, 1997. 402-17.

Chandler, Raymond. "The Simple Art of Murder – An Essay." *The Simple Art of Murder*. Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 1988. 2-9.

Kelly, James P. and John Kessel. "Hacking Cyberpunk." *Rewired: The Post-Cyberpunk Anthology*. eds. James P. Kelly and John Kessel. San Francisco: Tachyon Publications, 2007. vii-xiv.