

FORMS of LITERATURE: AMERICAN SHORT STORIES

Semester No 3	Code LA-212	Credit Hours 3-0
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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Discuss and make arguments (both orally and in writing) about literary works with your peers and instructor
2. Compose convincing interpretations of literary works and their ideas by applying the skills of close reading, textual analysis, and literary terminology
3. Examine human differences and similarities (including language, experience, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender) across historical, social, and cultural boundaries using literature

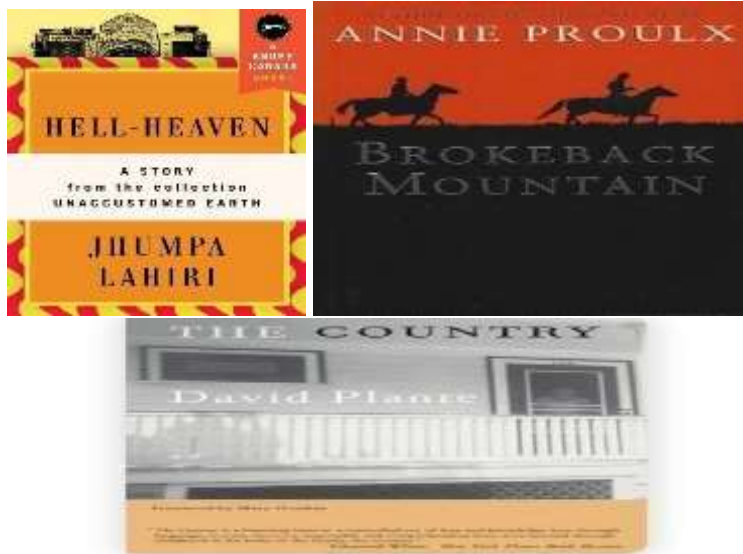
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to

1. Examine the genre of the short story, especially its traditional and innovative narrative techniques,
2. Examine various ways of constructing authorial point of view, its mode of plot compression and the relation of literary structure to temporality,
3. Determine range of styles from realism and naturalism to allegory, and to impressionism.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS:

1. Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings"
2. Jhumpa Lahiri, "Hell-Heaven"
3. Raymond Carver, "Why Don't You Dance?"
4. Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain"
5. Joy Williams, "The Country"



COURSE DESCRIPTION:



The short story reveals narrative at its most succinct, stripped bare (or rather contained within indispensable parts). Often viewed as insufficient novels, stories expose more fully the possibilities of narrative itself in revealing the flashes of character, lyricism, comedy, voice, coincidence, even fate that shape all fictional forms. This course examines the development of American short fiction over two centuries, revealing its extraordinary variety and complexity.




ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



Quizzes	10%-15%
Assignments	10%
Final Term Project	15%
Mid Term	20%
ESE	40%

Weekly breakdown of course contents is as follows

WEEK	TOPICS	QUIZZES	ASSIGNMENTS
1-2	<p>✚ Contemporary Writers/Critical Vocabularies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boyle, "Admiral" (BASS 1-22); Evans, "Virgins" (72-84); Goodman, "Closely Held" (BASS 85-106) H. Porter Abbott, "Story, plot, and narration" (The Cambridge Companion to Narrative, 39-51) Russell, "Vampires in the Lemon Grove;" (BASS 244-259); Munro, "Child's Play" BASS 201-239) Teresa Bridgman, "Time and space" (CCN 52-65) • Happy Endings <p>✚ American Fiction: Late Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain" 		
2-4	<p>✚ American Literary Traditions: Early Nineteenth Century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawthorne, "The Minister's Black Veil" (ASSW 104-116); Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (ASSW 117-130) Uri Margolin, "Character" (CCN 66-79) American Passages 6: Gothic Undercurrents <p>http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=1742</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melville, "Bartleby, The Scrivener" (ASSW 197-226); related commentary (ASSW 1407-1417) Charters, "Early Nineteenth Century, 1819-1860" (ASSW 25-34) Gelfant, "American Short Story, 1807-1900" (Gelfant 15-33) 	01	01

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Précis on Miller (or you may compare the arguments made by about early nineteenth century short stories by Charters and Gelfant), 		
5-6	<p> American Literary Traditions: Late Nineteenth Century (Regionalism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twain, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (ASSW 285- 290); Bret Harte, "The Luck of Roaring Camp" (ASSW 291-299); • Stephen Crane, "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" (ASSW 476-475) • Harte, "The Rise of the 'Short Story,'" (ASSW 1356-62) • Charters, "Late Nineteenth Century, 1861-1899" (ASSW 246-254) • American Passages 5: Masculine Heroes http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=1741 	01	01
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (ASSW 391-40); related commentary by Gilbert, Gubar, and Gilman (ASSW 1352-1356); • Rebecca Harding Davis, "Life in the Iron Mills" (ASSW 256-84) <p>Précis on Gilbert & Gubar</p>		
7-8	<p> American Literary Traditions: Fin de siècle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth" (ASSW 457-466); related commentary (ASSW 1365-68); Dunbar-Nelson, "Tony's Wife" (ASSW 476-480); Toomer, "BloodBurning Moon" (ASSW 674-681) • Gelfant, "The African American Short Story" (Gelfant 25-33) American Passages 8: Regional Realism http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=1744 		01
9	MID-TERM		

10	<p> American Literary Traditions: Twentieth Century Modernisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitzgerald, "Winter Dreams" (ASSW 636-654); related commentary (ASSW 1449-1451); Hemingway, "Soldier's Home" (ASSW 682-687); Stein, "Miss Furr and Miss Skeene" (ASSW 669673). Bronwen Thomas, "Dialogue" (CCN 90-93) American Passages 11: Modernist Portraits http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=1747 		
11-12	<p> American Literary Traditions: Early to Mid-Twentieth Century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faulkner, "Spotted Horses" (ASSW 702-717); related commentary (ASSW 1471-1473); Hurston, "The Gilded SixBits," (ASSW 727-737); related commentary (1368- 1372; 1469-1470); O'Connor, "Everything That Rises Must Converge" (ASSW 998-1010); related commentary (1417- 1423) American Passages 13: Southern Renaissance http://www.learner.org/resources/series164.html • James Phelan, "Rhetoric/ethics" (CCN 203-216) 	01	01
13-14	<p> American Literary Traditions: Postmodern Experimental Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Gass, "In the Heart of the Heart of the Country" (ASSW 1040- 1061); related commentary (ASSW 1348-1351); Richard Brautigan, "1/3, 1/3, 1/3" (ASSW 1085-1089); John Barth, "Title" (ASSW 1062-67); related commentary (ASSW 1302-1312); Amy Hempel, "In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson is Buried" (ASSW 1143-1149) 		

15-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charters, "Late Twentieth Century" (ASSW 10301039) Raymond Carver, "Why Don't You Dance?" 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  American Literary Traditions: The Search for Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" (ASSW 11031110); related commentary (ASSW 1469-1470); Edwidge Danticat, "New York Day Woman" (ASSW 1246-50) bell hooks, "talking back" (Talking Back, 5-9 E185.86 .H74 1989) American Passages 16: The Search for Identity http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=1752 Viramontes, "Miss Clairol" (ASSW 1178-1182); Sandra Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" (Woman Hollering Creek 43-56, PS3553.I78 W66 1991) Gloria Anzaldúa, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" (Borderlands/La Frontera, 75-86 PS3551.N95 B6 1987) Gelfant, "The Chicano-Latino Short Story" (4249)  How Are Canadian writers American writers? Munro, "The Beggar Maid" (Carried Away 274); Munro, "The Moons of Jupiter" (Carried Away 83100) Munro, "Friend of My Youth" (Carried Away 155-178); Munro, "Meneseteung" (Carried Away 179-202) "Hell-Heaven" 	01	01
17	Revision		
	END SEMESTER EXAMINATION		