

Summer Term 2018

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---,---. *Typologie der Short Story*. Darmstadt: WBG, 1977.

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14 March Introduction – The American Short Story: An Overview

Basic texts:

- Stephen Matterson, "Short Story" [Definition] (2003). [Moodle]
- M.H. Abrams, "Short Story" [Definition] (1985). [Moodle]
- J.A. Cuddon, "Short Story" [Definition] (1998). [Moodle]

21 March Stories of Trauma and Alienation

Main texts (reading required):

1. Jerome D. Salinger, "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" (1948/1953). [Moodle]
2. Jerome D. Salinger, "Pretty Mouth and Green My Eyes" (1953). [Moodle]

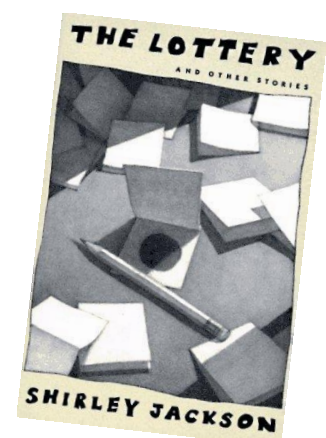
Keywords: Non-Conformism, Trauma, World War II, Young Adult Fiction.

11 April Postwar Horror – Fictions of the Uncanny

Main texts (reading required):

1. Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" (1948). [Moodle]
2. Shirley Jackson, "The Summer People" (1950). [Moodle]

Keywords: Cruelty, Gothic, Mob Mentality, Scapegoat, Uncanny, Unconscious.



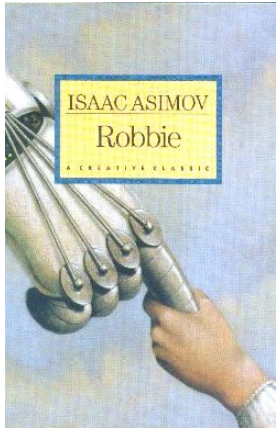
18 April

Existentialist Short Fiction

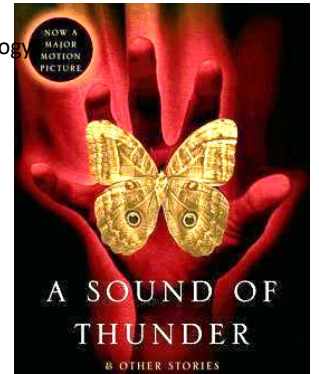
Main texts (reading required):

1. Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (1953). [Moodle]
2. Isaac B. Singer, "The Cafeteria" (1968). [Moodle]

Keywords: Authenticity, Existentialism, Grandmother, Holocaust, Individualism, Psychology



SHORT STORIES



25 April Into the Future: Science Fiction Stories and the Age of Technology

Main texts (reading required):

1. Ray Bradbury, "A Sound of Thunder" (1952). [Moodle]
2. Isaac Asimov, "Robbie" (from *I, Robot*) (1950). [Moodle]

Keywords: Human/Non-Human, Posthumanism, Science Fiction, Technology, Time Travel.

02 May

Crime Fiction – Noir Aesthetics and Postwar Anxiety

Main texts (reading required):

1. Stephen Marlowe, "Terrorists" (1956). [Moodle]
2. Patricia Highsmith, "The Birds Poised to Fly" (1968). [Moodle]

Keywords: Anxiety, Crime Fiction, Noir Aesthetics, Psychology, Pulp, Red Scare, Thriller.

09 May

Independent Study Unit- Research Proposal

Stay at home and create a 2-page research proposal for a potential final paper to be handed in on May 16.

16 May

African American Short Narratives – The Civil Rights Movement and Black Empowerment

Main texts (reading required):

1. James Baldwin, "Going to Meet the Man" (1968). [Moodle]
2. Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" (1973). [Moodle]

Keywords: African American Literature, Civil Rights, Lynching, Mother-Daughter, Racism.

Deadline
Research Proposal TODAY!

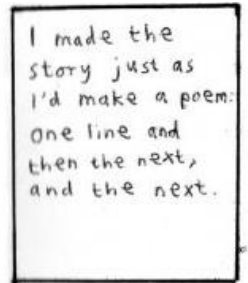
23 May

Postmodern American Short Fiction – Metafiction, Intertextuality, Experimentation

Main texts (reading required):

1. John Barth, "Lost in the Funhouse" (1968). [Moodle]
2. Joyce Carol Oates, "How I Contemplated the World..." (1969). [Moodle]
3. Richard Brautigan, "1/3, 1/3, 1/3" (1971). [Moodle]

Keywords: Intertextuality, 'Lit. of Exhaustion', Metafiction, Postmodernism, Self-Referentiality.



30 May

Minimalist Short Fiction – 'Dirty Realism' and Its Discontents

Main texts (reading required):

1. Raymond Carver, "What We Talk about When We Talk about Love" (1981). [Moodle]
2. Charles Bukowski, "The Stupid Christs" (1974/1983). [Moodle]

Keywords: Alcohol, Authenticity, Detachment, Dirty Realism, Minimalism.

06 June

Neo-Realist and Surrealist Short Stories

Main texts (reading required):

1. John Cheever, "The Swimmer" (1964). [Moodle]
2. David Foster Wallace, "Signifying Nothing" (2007). [Moodle]

Keywords: Absurdity, Chekhov, Irony, Maximalism, Neo-Realism, Suburbs, Surrealism.



13 June

Rainbow Fiction - Queer and Feminist Short Stories

Main texts (reading required):

1. Michelle Cliff, "Crocodilopolis" (2004). [Moodle]
2. Dale Peck, "Fucking Martin" (1993). [Moodle]

Keywords: Alternative History, Confessional Literature, Feminism, Queer Fiction, Race/Gender, Visibility.

20 June

The Native American Renaissance – American Indian Voices

Main texts (reading required):

1. Sherman Alexie, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" (1993). [Moodle]
2. Sherman Alexie, "The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation..." (1993). [Moodle]

Keywords: Community, Ethnicity, Humor, Native American Renaissance, Prejudice, Rez Lit.

27 June

Transnational Short Fiction

Main texts (reading required):

1. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Thing around Your Neck" (2009). [Moodle]
2. Gish Jen, "In the American Society" (1991). [Moodle]

Keywords: Asian American, Global Lit., Immigration, Nigerian American, Transnationalism.

