

Short Stories from around the World



Faculty	Course Type	Credits	Prerequisites	Semester
Hilda David	General	4	None	Any

The art of storytelling is doubtlessly older than record of civilization. Even the so-called modern short story, which was the latest of the major literary types to evolve, has an ancient origin.

Perhaps the oldest and most direct ancestor of the short story is the anecdote and descriptive story, straight to the point. The ancient fable and parable, blatantly have brief narrative used to enforce some moral or divine truth, and have anticipated the unadorned conciseness and accord of some short stories written today.

The purpose of this module is to examine some of the best short stories around the world and explore the central niggles of the form, including its unique presentation of the writer's expressions, its belief on myth, magic and chance and the presentation of ruthless truths, the manner in which it represents the channel of time and of lives within so short a space, and of course the precision of its language, imagery, portrayals and narrative strategies.

Throughout the module, the students will be encouraged to explore different, often conflicting, traditions within the form and exam works from writers such as O'Henry, Roald Dahl, Katherine Mansfield, H. Munro, Chinua Achebe, Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel Garcia Marques, Rabindranath Tagore, Lu Xun, etc.

Aim Of The Course

To enable students to undertake a detailed and extensive study of either multiple texts of a particular writer or a specific literary subject.

To relate this study to the social, political and historical context of that writer or the subject and to pertinent theoretical contexts and debates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able:

- Read and discuss a range of short stories
- Understand the genre of the short story and the tones and subtleties of literary language in a range of short fiction
- Express and interactively discuss their reading and form opinions on the short fiction they have studied
- Evaluate, compare and discuss film adaptations of the short story they have studied
- Write essays which present and sustain well-developed arguments on the work of the studied authors

Curriculum Content

- General introduction to issues related to the development of the short story form
- Examination of these issues across a wide range of texts written by a number of well-known and lesser known short story writers
- Continuous discussion and analysis of texts in relationship to their historical, cultural, political and theoretical contexts
- Consideration of the ways in which the chosen short stories reveal characteristic themes, styles, and concerns as well as divergent techniques within and against the traditions under scrutiny

Teaching And Learning Strategies

This module will be taught in a two-hour seminar block limited to fifteen (15) students. Activities within this block remain as flexible as possible to allow the module to adapt to student interests and questions as they develop from readings and discussions. Seminars will encourage active participation and lead to questions and discussions.

Activity / Workshops

- Short story writing contest.
- Interacting with writers
- Regular visits to the library to improve reading habits
- Workshops,
- Showing films based on text studied for discussion, etc.