



Course details

Course title

Literature: The American Short Story

Course code

Q00019239

Course date

Start: 18/11/24

End: 09/12/24

Number of classes

4 sessions

Timetable

Mon 18th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Mon 25th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Mon 2nd Dec, 14:00 to 16:00

Mon 9th Dec, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Joseph Williams

Fee range

Free to £33.60

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Jubilee Hall Loddon (Loddon)
George Lane
Loddon
NR14 6NB

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

The postwar period saw a major change in the significance of the short story in the USA and Canada, as it developed into a form for more serious explorations of character and psychology. Each week we will look at two stories by a major North American writer and discuss how they use such techniques as narration, subtext, and imagery to portray complex, layered characters. Featured writers include Ernest Hemingway, Raymond Carver, John Updike, Mavis Gallant, Shirley Jackson, and Elizabeth Strout. In the final two weeks we will look at stories about Christmas in particular.

Course description

The post-war period saw a major change in the significance of the short story in the USA and Canada. Whereas previously the short story had been the form for more sensational or dramatic pieces (for example crime or ghost stories) the decades after the second world war see a shift to more serious explorations of character and psychology, beginning with Ernest Hemingway and then later Raymond Carver, John Updike and Mavis Gallant.

Each week we will look closely at two stories, one by each of the following authors:

Ernest Hemingway and Raymond Carver

John Updike and Mavis Gallant

Elizabeth Strout and Brandon Taylor

Christmas stories by Langston Hughes and Grace Paley

Christmas stories by Shirley Jackson and Truman Capote

Looking at these stories, we will ask questions, including (among others): how does the writer use narration to explore memory and character? What does the writer describe in detail, and what do they leave out (and why)? How does the writer use imagery, in particular figurative language such as simile and metaphor?

Handouts of each of the stories will be provided in advance of each class.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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