

# **SYLLABUS**

**SUBJECT: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SHORT STORY (LECTURE/SEMINAR)**

**TEACHER: DR ELŻEBIETA ROKOSZ-PIEJKO**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to a wide thematic and formal spectrum of contemporary American short stories. Each class will be partly a lecture introducing a given writer and sometimes providing the students with social and historical background necessary, and partly a discussion of the texts assigned for a given meeting. In the analysis special attention will be paid to the form of a given short story, its structure, narration, characterization and point of view.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The course will provide the students with an opportunity to read and discuss a variety of contemporary short stories. The students will develop their analytical skills, general literary knowledge and language skills.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Students will be asked to write an essay (ca. 1500 words) being an analysis of one or two of the stories discussed in class.

## **TIMETABLE**

1 hour per week.

## **TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS**

1. Bambara, Toni Cade "The Lesson"
2. Barthelme, D. "Me and Miss Mandible"
3. Cisneros, Sandra "Barbie-Q", "Woman Hollering Creek"
4. King, Stephen "Suffer Little Children"
5. Meriwether, Louise M. "A Happening in Barbados"
6. Oates, Joyce Carol "Where Are You Going, Where have You Been?"
7. O'Connor, Flannery "Good Country People"
8. Paredes, Americo "The Hammon and the Beans"
9. Thurber, James "The Catbird Seat"
10. Updike, John "A&P"
11. Wolfe, Thomas "The Far and the Near"

## **PREREQUISITES:**

Upper-intermediate level of English.