



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

LIT 220 Major American Short Stories

Instructor: Reiner Smolinski, Ph.D.

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Credit: 2 units

Students

Undergraduates and graduates

Teaching Language

This course is taught in English.

Prerequisites

Good Sense of Humor!

Methods of Instruction

Lectures, discussions, handouts

Classroom Capacity

No limits

Evaluation

Attendance and participation 30%

Open Book Final Examination 70%

About the Instructor

Professor Reiner Smolinski teaches American literature and culture at Georgia State University, Atlanta (USA). His research focuses on colonial American manuscripts, biblical hermeneutics, Enlightenment philosophy, and the history of ideas. He loves Chinese food, history, architecture, and culture!

Course Description

Major American Short Stories (July 3-14, 2017)

A survey seminar on the American short stories, this course focuses on representative short stories by some of the most significant American writers: Willa Cather, Kate Chopin, Ralph Ellison, William Faulkner, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Susan Glaspell, Nathaniel Hawthorne, O. Henry, Washington Irving, Jack London, Edgar Allen Poe, Katherine Anne Porter, and Henry David Thoreau. Through lectures and



in-class discussions, we will devote ourselves to a close reading of the texts and their historical, cultural, and philosophical currents.

**Out-of-class discussions available for graduate students engaged in M.A. and Ph.D. research.

Syllabus

Major American Short Stories

- Week 1: **M:** Introduction to American Literature
 Kate Chopin, “Story of an Hour.”
 T: *Washington Irving*, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”
 Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case.”
 W: *Susan Glaspell*, “A Jury of Her Peers.”
 Ralph Ellison, “Battle Royal.”
 Th: *William Faulkner*, “A Rose for Emily.”
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper.”
- Week 2: **M:** *Nathaniel Hawthorne*, “The Minister’s Black Veil.”
 Henry David Thoreau, “Captivity Narrative of Hannah Duston.”
 T: *Jack London*, “To Build a Fire.”
 Edgar Allen Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado” and “The Tell-Tale Heart.”
 W: *Katherine Anne Porter*, “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall.”
 O. Henry. “The Gift of the Magi.”
 T: *Final Exam* (short essay questions about overarching themes)

Required Text

PDF copies of short stories will be supplied c. 2 weeks before classes begin

Reference Readings

- (1) James Nagel, *The American Short Story Handbook* (2015)
- (2) Selected articles (provided in class)