

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : The American Short Story (2AN1432)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through reader-response papers
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing an oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

Contenu:

Often claimed as distinctly American, the short story developed as a self-conscious literary genre from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, and continues to enjoy a vital place in North American letters today, notably thanks to literary magazines such as the New Yorker and MFA programs. In this seminar, we will read works by twenty-four distinguished writers between 1820 and 2014, pairing two authors each week based on their similarities and / or differences. Particular attention will be placed on formal definitions, institutional conditions that enabled the development of the genre, and on the history of its critical reception. We will try to answer a number of questions, including how short a short story must be, why the short story has usually been considered an ephemeral genre, what is the function of short-story collections and anthologies, and how the short story contributes to literary creation more generally. The short stories will also provide insight into the social and political history of the United States, inevitably bringing up issues of class, race, and gender.

The particular aim of this course is to familiarize students with American literature and introduce students to a specific literary genre.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : One in-class presentation of secondary criticism ; two shorter critical essays (4-6 double-spaced pages each) (80%).

Documentation:

Stories will be posted on the course platform.

Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)