ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

2019-2020 FALL

ELL 561

Studies in Short Fiction

Assist. Prof. Berkem Gürenci Sağlam

This course will survey the origins and history of the short story, from its beginnings in the oral tradition and anecdotes of the classical period, through medieval stories, and seventeenth to eighteenth-century gothic tales, to its formalization as a genre in the nineteenth century and its development through the twentieth century to the present. The focus may be on the traditions of interpretations of particular works and collections that have received considerable critical attention (e.g. Hoffmann’s tales, Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Poe’s “The Purloined Letter,” Kafka’s short stories, Borges’s Labyrinths and Fictions, the short fiction of Barthelme, Barth, Garcia Marquez, Lispector, or Mishima); or on selected works from the vast range of works in this genre across national traditions. As the course aims to increase students’ interpretative and close reading skills, it will move beyond the technical characteristics of the genre, where works vary considerably among authors and traditions, to consider a range of critical perspectives, both from scholars focusing on the genre – such as Patea, May, Jarrell, Lohafer, Ferguson, Wright, Rohrberger, Gerlach, Reid, and Siebert – and from other readers adopting diverse frames of reference, ranging from formalism and structuralism, marxisms and social theories, to feminisms, psychoanalytic and cognitive science perspectives, poststructuralist theories, etc.

**Requirements:** MA students are expected to attend every class. Being ready for class constitutes being in the classroom on time, bringing relevant texts, and having read and thought about those texts.

**Evaluation:** **Plagiarism of even one sentence will result in a direct F on the assignment, more than one paragraph will be a direct fail of the course**.

Presentations (10% each)

Term Project (30 %)

Final Exam (40 %)

**Textbook:** Photocopy material will be handed out by the lecturer during the first week.

**Term Project:** Each student will choose an author from her/his native country and analyze 2 stories by them according to the Western tradition that we have discussed throughout term. How you choose to deal with the stories will be up to you. These papers are expected to be around 10-15 pages and written in full MLA format.

Possible authors to choose from: Aziz Nesin, Leyla Erbil, Sabahattin Ali, Murathan Mungan, Oğuz Atay, Onat Kutlar, Ayfer Tunç, Bilge Karasu, Orhan Kemal, Doğu Yücel, Sevim Burak, Luay Hamzah Abbas, Hassan Blasim, Ali Bader. You may choose a different author provided you submit your suggestion to me well in advance.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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| Week 1 | 23.09.2019 | Introduction to the Course |
| Week 2 | 30.09.2019 | Washington Irving, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”  Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” |
| Week 3 | 07.10.2019 | Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” “Tell-Tale Heart”  “Poe on Short Fiction”  Theodore A. Stroud, “A Critical Approach to the Short Story” (pdf) |
| Week 4 | 14.10.2019 | Gustave Flaubert, “A Simple Heart”  Article presentations |
| Week 5 | 21.10.2019 | Anton Chekhov, *Casebook*  “The Schoolmistress”  “Angel [The Darling]” |
| Week 6 | 28.10.2019 | Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener”  Article presentations |
| Week 7 | 04.11.2019 | Kate Chopin, “The Storm” and “A Respectable Woman” (pdf) |
| Week 8 | 11.11.2019 | Henry James, “The Real Thing”  Brander Matthews, “The Philosophy of the Short-Story” |
| Week 9 | 18.11.2019 | Kafka, “The Hunger Artist” |
| Week 10 | 25.11.2019 | James Joyce, “Araby” and “The Dead”  Article Presentations |
| Week 11 | 02.12.2019 | Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants” and “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”  Mary Louise Pratt, “The Short Story: The Long and the Short of it” |
| Week 12 | 09.12.2019 | John Cheever, “The Swimmer”  Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party” |
| Week 13 | 16.12.2019 | Term Project Presentations |
| Week 14 | 23.12.2019 | Jorge Luis Borges, “Pierre Menard, author of the *Quixote*” (pdf)  Angela Carter, “The Company of Wolves” (pdf) |