

Module Title: Brief Encounters: Around the World in Short Stories

Module Code: COM4208

Credit Value: 15

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module provides an introduction to that most global and mobile of literary forms: the short story. It explores short stories from diverse cultures and traditions around the world. By reading short stories from across the globe, students will also be introduced to the short story as a particular kind of literary text — one that takes on many different forms and meanings across time and space — and to the idea of ‘world literature’.

Module Aims

- Knowledge of key characteristics of the short story genre;
- Development of a comparatist approach to reading and analysing short stories from around the globe;
- Ability to identify and analyse the formal and thematic issues raised by works, individually and collectively;
- Articulation of ideas in the form of seminar contributions and cogent and well-structured essays;
- Knowledge of some of the debates surrounding ‘world literature’ within the discipline of comparative literature;
- Capacity to understand literary texts within both their national and global contexts.