

SAGRADO

Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

SYLLABUS

TITLE: How to write a short story?
CODING: HUM 222
CREDITS: 3 credits | 45 contact hours | 1 term

DESCRIPTION

This course explores the practice of short narrative writing as readers and authors. Emphasis is placed on understanding the structure and techniques of genre writing through the study of representative texts of literature written or translated into Spanish, as well as through literary creation.

JUSTIFICATION

The practice of narrative writing is an active way to understand the literary structure of storytelling and its value as an artistic and social discourse.

COMPETENCIES

The course develops the following competencies in the student:

- **Communication**
- **Research and exploration**
- **Critical questioning**

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize creative writing as a dynamic and artistic process.
2. Recognize the context and relevant figures in the Hispanic, Caribbean, and Anglo-Saxon panorama of short stories and other forms of short narratives.
3. Analyze literary texts through discussion and writing.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of literary terms and basic techniques of writing short stories and other short narratives.

5. Formulate accurate and well-founded critical appreciations of their own writing and that of others (authors and classmates).
6. Demonstrate creativity and aesthetic sense in writing.

CONTENTS

- I. What is a short story?
 - A. Definitions and Poetics of the Short Story
 - B. What are your poetics?
 - C. Other Forms of Short Narratives
- II. How do you read and comment on a story?
 - A. Taste and the Function of Criticism
 - B. What is a good story?
 1. Plausibility, originality, ingenuity, and reader impact
 - C. Workshop Dynamics: How to Comment on Other People's Texts
- III. How do you write a story?
 - A. Narrative Voice
 1. Types of voices
 2. Focuses or perspectives
 3. Can I trust the narrator?
 - B. Narrative Structures
 1. Narrative arc
 2. Linear
 3. Circular
 4. Retrospective
 5. The Chinese box
 6. Epistolary
 - C. Atmosphere, Time, and Place
 - D. Characters
- IV. Where do the stories come from?
 - A. Observation, Obsessions, and Dreaming
 - B. Myths and the Rewriting of History
 - C. Intertextualities and Artistic Dialogues
 - D. Memory and Personal Files
- V. How is a story edited?

- A. Dialogues
- B. Show vs. Tell
- C. Rhetorical Elements
- D. The law of Economics
- E. Spelling and Grammar
- F. The Commonplace or Cliché Traps

METHODOLOGY

The following active learning methodology strategies are recommended:

- Conferences and dialogue with guest authors
- Immersion in open spaces
- Archival research and exploration

EVALUATION

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Critical reviews | 25% |
| Story writing | 25% |
| Author interview | 25% |
| Final project | <u>25%</u> |
| TOTAL | 100% |

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The institutional assessment rubric will be applied to the core activity of the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson Imbert, E. (1996) *Teoría y técnica del cuento*. Barcelona: Ariel.

Arroyo Pizarro, Y. (2012) *Negras*. San Juan: Boreales.

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Cortázar, J. (1975) *Del cuento breve y sus alrededores*. In *La casilla de los Morelli* (105-116). Barcelona: Tusquets.

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Livmar, P. (2018) *Teoremas turbios*. San Juan: Editorial EDP.

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Mora, C. (1995) *En breve. Estudios sobre el cuento hispanoamericano contemporáneo*. Sevilla: Universidad de Sevilla.

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More informational resources related to the course topics can be found on the library's website at <http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/>.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information on the process and required documentation, visit the appropriate office. To ensure equal opportunities in compliance with the ADA (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, all students in need of reasonable accommodation services or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón to take courses with or without academic credit. A lack of academic integrity is any act or omission that does not demonstrate the honesty, transparency, and responsibility that should characterize all academic activity. Any student who fails to comply with the Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism Policy is exposed to the following sanctions: receive a grade of zero in the evaluation and/or repetition of the assignment in the seminar, a grade of F (*) in the seminar, suspension, or expulsion as established in the Academic Integrity Policy effective in November 2022.

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