

O.P. Jindal Global University
Jindal School of Languages and Literature
Spring 2026

LLUS09-BLL-ENGL-1109/ Short Stories from around the World

Instructor: Dr. Turni Chakrabarti (turni.chakrabarti@jgu.edu.in)

This undergraduate programme elective and cross-elective course of 4 credits.

Course Description:

This elective course will introduce students to short fiction from around the world. Students will focus on both form and content: we will learn about the short story as a genre, while also exploring questions of family, community, race, class, gender, migration, and identity. We will begin in the late nineteenth century and end in the present day and pay attention to how these stories portray themes such as familial relationships, agency, oppression, resistance, power, and radical empathy. Students will learn the skills of literary analysis and interpretation by engaging with short fiction. We will read stories written in English as well as stories that have been translated into English.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will

1. Be able to do close readings of short stories while connecting them to their historical, economic, and socio-cultural contexts;
2. Be able to evaluate, interpret, and critically analyze the key elements of short stories;
3. Become familiar with the ways in the short story has evolved from the 19th century to the present day;
4. Be able to write clearly and persuasively about the topics that we have engaged with over the semester.

Stories we will read:

1. Guy de Maupassant, “The Necklace” (1884)
2. Chekov, Anton. “Home” (1887)
3. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892)
4. Rabindranath Tagore, “*Shasti*” (1893)
5. O. Henry, “The Cop and the Anthem” (1904) and “The Last Leaf” (1905)
6. Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery” (1948)
7. Saadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh” (1955)
8. Octavia Butler, “The Evening and the Morning and the Night” (1987)
9. Maria Elena Llano, “In the Family” (1990)
10. Alice Munro, “Fiction” (2009)
11. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Thing Around Your Neck” (2009)
12. Ken Liu, “The Paper Menagerie” (2011)
13. Zadie Smith, “The Lazy River” (2017)
14. Danielle Evans, “Anything Could Disappear” (2020)

Assessment Pattern:

2 Response Sheets: 2x20=40

Midterm Exam: 30

Final Exam: 30.