

Course Description				
Course Title	Reading 3: the contemporary American short story			
Course Type	Elective	Recommended Year/Semester of Study		
Course Length	1 semest.	Per week	0/2	ECTS 2
Length (Further Specifications)				
Method of Assessment	Final Test	Form of Delivery		Seminar
Course Requirements	Requirements for the course are a minimum of 75% attendance and clear evidence in class discussion that students have read and are familiar with the set texts.			
Lecturer	Gregor Kalinowski, M.A., Ph.D.			
Course Overview	<p><u>Aims:</u> This course involves reading at home and discussion in class based on pre- and post-reading tasks. The focus is on American short stories written since the 1970's, and introduces students to a range of stylistic directions in contemporary American fiction and draws their attention to the considerable cultural diversity of its exponents. By the end of the course students will have received considerable reading practice, which should help transfer extensive reading skills from L1 (Czech) to L2 (English), as well as practise of critical reflection upon literary texts and close reading of excerpts. They will also be familiar with the themes and directions in contemporary American literature and, hopefully, keen to follow up interests they may have developed.</p> <p><u>Topics: possible course outline</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to styles & themes of the contemporary American short story 2. 'Brownies,' ZZ Packer 3. 'Nilda,' Junot Diaz 4. 'Silver Water,' Amy Bloom 5. 'The Management of Grief,' Bharati Mukherjee 6. 'The Things They Carried,' Tim O'Brien 7. 'The Caretaker,' Anthony Doerr 8. 'The Girl Who Left Her Sock on the Floor,' Deborah Eisenberg 9. 'The Ceiling,' Kevin Brockmeier 10. 'The Cavemen in the Hedges,' Stacey Richter 11. 'Sea Oak,' George Saunders 12. 'A Real Doll,' A. M. Homes 13. 'The School,' Donald Barthelme 			
Course Reading List	<p><u>Compulsory:</u> WILLIFORD, L.; MARTONE, M. (eds.) <i>The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction – 50 North American stories since 1970</i>. New York, 2007. OATES, J. C.; BEHA, C. R. (eds.) <i>The Ecco Anthology of Contemporary American Short Fiction</i>. New York, 2008.</p>			