

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	The Best American Short Stories 2023 [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA03, IAA22, IAA23, IAA24, IAA25, BAC1, BAC2, BAC3, IAA41, IAA42, IAA43]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-567
Zeit	Di 16-18
Raum	Phil A 11005
Beginn	02.04.2024

Course Description:

Since its inception roughly in the early 19th century, the American Short Story has assumed center stage in U.S. American literary culture, in the sense that it has always been a genre imbued with great popularity as well as considerable cultural cachet. In this seminar, we will study strictly contemporary short stories, specifically the selection contained in the most recent installment of the much-noted yearly anthology series of *The Best American Short Stories*, edited by Min Jin Lee and Heidi Pitlor and published in 2023. According to the publishers' website, the collected stories "reflect a world full of fractured relationships, but also wondrous hope. [...] Enlightening, poignant, and undeniably human, [they] bravely confront societal darkness and offer, in Lee's words, 'our emotional truths, restoring our sanity and providing comfort for the days ahead'." Going well beyond such grand claims, we will look at the ways in which these recent short stories each resonate with the specific moment they capture as well as their diverse approaches to representing reality across different media and publishing platforms. What is more, we will explore how the short prose form affords relatively direct responses to real-life events including wars and other disasters, and to what end.

Important note:

All students must buy the following book:

The Best American Short Stories 2023, ed. Min Jin Lee and Heidi Pitlor. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2023. ISBN: 9780063275904.

Additional course materials will be provided via AGORA.

Course Requirements:

The requirements for receiving full course credit include: Regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of the assigned texts, shorter written assignments and/or in-class presentations, as well as a term paper to be completed at the end of the semester.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mo 14-15 Uhr u. nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste auf der Instituts-Webseite

