Veranstalter:	Julia Lange
Modul:	American Short Stories: The Development of a Genre [AA-A3, ENG-7/a, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-562
Zeit:	2st. Mi 12-14
Raum:	Phil 1269
Beginn:	19.10.2016

## **Course description:**

American Short Story 101 or 101 Years of "The Best American Short Stories" (1915-2016)

In this seminar, we will trace the development of a quintessentially American genre: the short story. After a cursory overview of the genre's evolution in the first (Irving, Hawthorne, Poe, Melville) and second (Twain, Bierce, Chopin, James, Crane) half of the 19th century, we will embark on a thorough investigation of a selection of widely (and not so widely) anthologized American short stories written in the 20th and 21st centuries. The corpus will mostly be based on the centennial celebration edition of "The Best American Short Stories" (Moore/Pitlor, eds.), which is the United States' longest-running and best-selling series of short fiction. Furthermore, we will consult the most recent addition to the series, "The Best American Short Stories 2016" (edited by Junot Diaz), so as to get a glimpse of the latest trends in the genre's development.

Throughout the course, topics of race, gender, class, intermediality, and the post-human will be central to our analysis as will be a more fundamental question: What do the adjectives "American", "short", and "best" actually mean in the context of what we nonchalantly call "a story"?

## Literature:

I strongly recommend purchasing the following anthology as it encompasses the main body of works to be examined in the course of the semester:

Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor (eds.). 100 Years of the Best American Short Stories. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.

## **Requirements:**

Regular active participation, short in-class presentation, term paper.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste