

**Course title:** Critical Thinking – Literary Thinking: American Literature

**Course code:** MSA0941

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** MA

**Year of study:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Radu Andriescu

**Course objective:** The course offers the students a perspective upon the American fiction of the last decades, with emphasis on the cultural diversity of the United States. Multicultural awareness will be enhanced. Intellectual flexibility, an openness to new ideas and an ability to adapt to a changing cultural environment are encouraged.

**Course contents:** Short stories by a number of male and female writers are analysed, the authors being selected according to two criteria: power of innovation and diversity. Authors to be studied: Susan Sontag, John Barth, Donald Barthelme, Toni Cade Bambara, Sandra Cisneros, Junot Diaz, Charles Bukowski, Rick Bass, Jamaica Kincaid, Toni Cade Bambara, Stuart Dybek, David Wong Louie, Janet Kauffman, Russell Banks.

**Recommended reading:** Williford, Lex, Michael Martone, *The Scribner Anthology of contemporary Short fiction*, Scribner Paperback Fiction, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1999; Richard Bausch, *Best New American Voices 2008*, Harcourt Inc., 2007

**Teaching methods:** lectures, workshops

**Assessment methods:** (a) midterm examination (written); (b) final examination (written)

**Language of instruction:** English