Instructor: Nicola Gavioli  
Classroom: Graham Center 274  
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Office Hours: M/W 2-3pm (or by appointment)  
Office phone number: 3053484556  
DM building, room 482 A  
Course Credits: 3

**Course Description:**

According to a provocatively laconic Mário de Andrade, “sempre será conto aquilo que seu autor batizou com o nome de conto.” Is this an oversimplification? Aside from short, are there guiding principles that allow readers to identify what constitutes a short story? The course presents an overview of the fundamental theoretical discussions on the short story as a world literature genre. After these preliminary considerations, the course will focus on the forms, themes and developments of the _conto brasileiro_, from the canonical works by Machado de Assis and Lima Barreto to the contemporary production of celebrated authors Rubem Fonseca, Luís Fernando Veríssimo, Nélida Piñon, Sérgio Sant’Anna, and others.

**Required Material:**

(available at the FIU bookstore)

Critical readings (photocopies, pdf documents)

**Course Objectives:**

- To develop critical reading skills to support interpretations of a literary work.
- To get acquainted with major trends and authors of the short story genre in Brazil.
- To understand major issues and obsessions present in Brazilian culture and society through the prism of literature.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Lecture conducted entirely in Portuguese. Each class will consist of a presentation on the central topic followed by a discussion on the readings assigned.

**Tentative Schedule:**
**Week 1**

**M. Overview and preliminary questions**

on the ‘short story’ as a *genre*

**W. Overview (2**\(^{nd}\) **part): Narrators; incipit; climax; ending**

**Week 2**

**M. Martin Luther King Day**

Machado, “A causa secreta”

**W. Machado de Assis**

Machado, “Pilades e Orestes”

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**Week 3**

**M. Machado de Assis**

Machado, “Pai contra mãe”

**W. Monteiro Lobato**

M. Lobato, “Negrinha”

Ana Maria Gonçalves, “Carta aberta ao Ziraldo”  
(http://www.idelberavelar.com/archives/2011/02/carta_aberta_ao_ziraldo_por_ana_maria_goncalves.php/)

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**Week 4**

**M. – Lima Barreto**

Lima Barreto, “O homem que sabia javanês”

**W. – Lima Barreto**

Lima Barreto, “A nova Califórnia”

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**Week 5**

**M. – Review**

**W. – TEST 1**

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**Week 6**

**M. – Clarice Lispector**

Lispector, “Amor”

**W. – Clarice Lispector**

Lispector, “Feliz aniversário”

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**Week 7**

**M. – Clarice Lispector**

Lispector, “Uma galinha”

**W. – Clarice Lispector**

Lispector, “Mineirinho”

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**Week 8**

**M. – João Guimarães Rosa**

J.G. Rosa, “A terceira margem do rio”

**W. – João Guimarães Rosa**

J. G. Rosa, “As margens da alegria”
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W. Final Essay

Assessment:

Students will come to class prepared for discussion about the readings assigned.

Test 1, Test 2 and Test 3 will be in class.

The Final Paper will consist of 5 pages of original work written in Portuguese according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Check MLA Style guidelines at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Grading:

Regular attendance and active participation 10 %
Test 1 20%
Test 2 20%
Test 3 20 %
Final essay 30 %

Grading Scale:

A: 100 – 95 A-: 94 – 90
B+: 89 – 87 B: 86 – 84 B-: 83 – 80
C+: 79 – 77 C: 76 – 74 C-: 73 – 70
D+: 69 – 67 D: 66 – 64 D-: 63 – 60
F: 59 and below

Assistant is required. Students who cannot come to class due to University sanctioned events (athletes, debaters, musicians, etc.) or family-related events (funerals, marriages, etc.) must inform the professor in advance.

It is extremely important to arrive in class on time. Be aware that disrupting the class with late arrivals will not be tolerated. A 10 minutes delay counts as one absence.

Missing class will be penalized each time by one percentage point. In case of an emergency (illness, hospitalization, etc.) you are required to provide a note from your doctor or another official and verifiable documentation.

Absolutely no text messaging or use of cell phones, i-pods, MP3 and other electronic devices during class. Turn them off or leave them home. The use of the computer is accepted for note-taking only.

Academic Misconduct (as set out in FIU policies):

As a student of this university, you are expected:
• to be honest in your academic endeavors.
• not represent someone else's work as your own.
• not cheat, nor aid in another's cheating
Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and are punishable up to and including expulsion from the University.

Please, get better acquainted with what is considered “Academic Misconduct:”
http://www2.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm

Selected Bibliography:


Useful Links:

Academia Brasileira de Letras: http://www.academia.org.br/abl/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?tpl=home

Releituras: http://www.releituras.com/

Rubem Fonseca: http://literal.terra.com.br/rubem_fonseca/

Nélida Piñon: http://www.nelidapinon.com.br/

Sibila: http://www.sibila.com.br/

Site do escritor: http://www.sitedoescritor.com.br/sitedoescritor_escritores.html