

The 20th century short story: renewing tradition in a digital age

Niveau d'étude
Bac +5

Composante
Lettres et langues

Présentation

Saunders. While exploring concepts of “human nature,” we shall inevitably discuss what we mean by “nature” and how humans conceptualize their position therein.

Description

Technological developments that have altered our social and political lives also figure prominently in imaginative literature. The distinction between “science fiction” and “literary fiction” needs to be re-examined. What does it mean to be human in an era of physical enhancement, chemically-altered psychology and cyborgs? How have recent short stories addressed these developments?

Heures d'enseignement

The 20th century short story: renewing tradition in a digital age - CM	CM	12h
The 20th century short story: renewing tradition in a digital age TD	TD	6h

Objectifs

This seminar will consider these questions not only thematically but also in terms literary tradition (e.g., questions of utopia, dystopia, Frankenstein narratives, etc.) and how technology can influence form (e.g., what are the particularities of a short story told in tweets?). We shall also keep in mind the critic Charles May’s assertion that the short story genre is close to “the original source of narrative in myth.”

With reference to science fiction and technological post-humanism, we will do close readings of short stories by Kurt Vonnegut, Jennifer Egan and George