

## Approval: 6<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>: Popular Narratives</b>
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>: HS 620</b>
<b>Credit</b>	<b>: 3-0-0-3</b>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>: Consent of the Course Instructor</b>
<b>Students intended for</b>	<b>: Ph.D.</b>
<b>Elective or Compulsory</b>	<b>: Elective</b>
<b>Semester</b>	<b>: Odd/Even</b>

### **Course Permeable:**

The distinction between high art and low art has long dictated the appreciation of arts by the people. The social status of the people was something that ordained their different spheres of their exposure to music, books, art, etc., high art meant for the cultivated few, and low art meant for the masses. However, these distinctions are being increasingly blurred and overstepped because of the economics involved in the publishing industry and the changing tastes of the masses. As high art cannot be considered the prerogative of the few, similarly low art cannot be confined to the masses. This course studies the idea of popular in literature and its origin and development over the last couple of centuries. This would be done by engaging with the seminal texts from the field of popular fiction.

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Module I Introduction: (4 lecture hours)**

What is Popular? High art and low art. Paperbacks. Dime Novels. Formula and literature. Bestsellers – lists and influences. Comics – strips to graphic narratives.

#### **Module II Bestsellers: (24 lecture hours)**

**Gothic** (Mary Shelly, Bram Stoker)

**Detective Fiction** (Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie)

**Spy Fiction** (Le Carre, Ian Flemming)

**Romance** (Margaret Mitchell, Daphne Du Maurier)

**Graphic Narratives** (Art Spiegelman, Marjane Satrapi)

#### **Module III Young Adult Fiction: (8 lecture hours)**

**Quest Novels** (J. R. R. Tolkien, J. K. Rowling, Louis Sachar)

#### **Module IV Fandom (6 lecture hours)**

(E. L. James, Hugh Howey)

### **Reading List:**

1. Behler, Anne. Getting Started with Graphic Novels: A Guide for the Beginner. Reference & User Services Quarterly: 46: 2 (Winter 2006).

2. Brown, Jeffrey. "Comic Book Fandom." *Black Superheroes, Milestone Comics, and Their Fans*. Jackson, MI: University of Mississippi Press, 2001.
3. Chandler, Raymond. "The Simple Art of Murder." Originally published in *Atlantic Monthly*, December, 1945.
4. de Certeau, Michel. "Reading as Poaching." In *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Translated by Steven Rendall. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002.
5. Denning, Michael. "Fiction Factories: The Production of Dime Novels." In *Mechanic Accents: Dime Novels and Working-Class Culture in America*. Revised edition. London, UK: Verso, 1998.
6. Eisner, Will. *Comics and Sequential Art*. Florida: Poorhouse Press, 1985. Print.
7. Fish, Stanley. "Literature in the Reader: Affective Stylistics." *New Literary History* 2, no. 1, A Symposium on Literary History (Autumn 1970).
8. Iser, Wolfgang. "Interaction Between Text and Reader." In *Prospecting: From Reader Response to Literary Anthropology*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.
9. Jenkins, Henry. "Scribbling in the Margins: Fan Readers / Fan Writers." *Textual Poachers: Television Fans and Participatory Culture*. New York, NY: Routledge, 1992.
10. Miller, Laura. "The Best-Seller List as Marketing Tool and Historical Fiction." *Book History* 3 (2000): 286-304.
11. Penley, Constance. "Feminism, Psychoanalysis, and the Study of Popular Culture." *Cultural Studies*. Edited by Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, and Paula A. Treichler. New York, NY: Routledge, 1991.
12. Radway, Janice. "Introduction", "The Readers and their Romances." In *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature*. 2nd ed. Durham, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.
13. Saxena, Vandan. "And the story goes on....: Harry Potter and Online Fan Fiction." *Technoculture* 2 (2012).
14. Twitchell, James B. "Paperbacked Culture." *Carnival Culture: The Trashing of Taste in America*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1992.
15. Wilson, Edmund. "Who Cares Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?" Originally published in *New Yorker*, January 20, 1945.
16. Zboray, Robert. "Gender and Boundlessness in Reading Patterns." In *A Fictive People: Antebellum Economic Development and the American Reading Public*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1992.