

# Genres of Popular Literature

(BBNAN24500 – D1, D2)

Kinga Földvály



Time: Mondays 8.15–9.45, 12.30–14.00

Place: DAN 205

Availability: Mondays 14.00–15.00 or by e-mail: [foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu)

Course material: MS Teams

## Course schedule:

Week 1 (4 March)	What is popular literature? Genres, formulas, conventions HW for 11 March: a slide (a magazine + a story) from <a href="http://www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html">www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html</a>
Week 2 (11 March)	Classic <b>pulp</b> magazines
Week 3 (28 March)	<b>Crime stories:</b> E.A. Poe: "The Purloined Letter"; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "A Scandal in Bohemia"
Week 4 (25 March) (1 April)	<b>Science Fiction:</b> Isaac Asimov: "Runaround" EASTER MONDAY – NO CLASS
Week 5 (8 Apr)	<b>Zombie romance:</b> Isaac Marion: <i>Warm Bodies</i>
Week 6 (15 Apr)	<b>Fantasy:</b> Susanna Clarke: "Mrs Mabb" – <b>Guest lecturer:</b> Prof. Bartłomiej Błaszczewicz (University of Warsaw)
Week 7 (22 Apr)	<b>Dystopia:</b> Ray Bradbury: "There Will Come Soft Rains"; Ursula K. LeGuin: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"
Week 8 (29 Apr)	<b>Bestseller or art?</b> Sally Rooney: <i>Normal People</i> (2018)
Week 9 (6 May)	<b>Fairy tales, retold:</b> Michael Cunningham: "Poisoned", Neil Gaiman: "Snow, Glass, Apple" – <b>Deadline for assignments</b>
Week 9 (13 May) (20 May)	Popular culture on the screen; Conclusion, evaluation PENTECOST MONDAY – NO CLASS

## Requirements:

- **Active participation**, reading course material, regular attendance (max. 3 missed classes)
- Weekly **reflections** on the readings, pointing out the generic conventions in the works, to be submitted **until midnight on the Sunday** before the class
- In-class **presentation** on any work that qualifies as popular fiction (anything that is **NOT** on the reading list), with an emphasis on the features related to its genre
- **End-term assignment:**
  - **EITHER: Home essay:** at least 2000 words long, printed or uploaded by **6 May** to Teams, presenting and analysing any literary work that qualifies as popular literature – and **that we have NOT discussed in class**. Use **at least three secondary (academic) sources** in your analysis, properly **referenced**
  - **OR: short fiction**, at least 2000 words, in any popular genre (more details on both types of assignments in the Teams folder)