

# Genres of Popular Literature

(BBNAN24500 – D2)

Kinga Földvály



Time: Fridays 8.15–9.45

Place: BTK D 312

Availability: By e-mail appointment: [foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu)

Course material: MS Teams

## Course schedule:

Week 1 (13 Feb) What is popular literature? Genres, formulas, conventions

HW for 20 Feb: a slide (a magazine + a story) from [www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html](http://www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html)

Week 2 (20 Feb) Classic **pulp** magazines

Week 3 (27 Feb) **Crime stories**: E.A. Poe: "The Purloined Letter"; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "A Scandal in Bohemia"

Week 4 (6 March) **Science Fiction**: Isaac Asimov: "Runaround"; "First Law"

Week 5 (13 March) **Zombie romance**: Isaac Marion: *Warm Bodies*

Week 6 (20 March) **Fantasy**: Susanna Clarke: "Mrs Mabb"; (optional: U. LeGuin: "Why Are Americans Afraid of Dragons?")

Week 7 (27 March) **Dystopia**: Ray Bradbury: "There Will Come Soft Rains"; Ursula K. LeGuin: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

(3 April) **EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS**

(10 April) **EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS**

Week 8 (17 April) **Horror**: Shirley Jackson: "The Lottery"; Roald Dahl: "The Landlady"

Week 9 (24 April) **Fairy tales**, retold: Michael Cunningham: "Poisoned", Neil Gaiman: "Snow, Glass, Apple", Margaret Atwood: "Unpopular Gals"

(1 May) **Labour day – NO CLASS**

Week 10 (8 May) **In-class essay**

Week 11 (15 May) **Popular fiction on the screen**; Conclusion, evaluation

## 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 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
- **In-class essay (or short fiction)**