

Name	EPISODES: ITALIAN SHORT STORIES AND SERIAL STORYTELLING FROM THE 1950S TO SOCIAL MEDIA (10 ECTS)
Code	ITU33254
Semester	SEMESTER 2
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	
Coordinator	

Module Content

The short story boasts a distinguished tradition in Italian literature, dating back to Boccaccio's Decameron. It has continued to flourish until the present day, gaining popularity especially from the second half of the 20th century. This module starts exactly from the 1950s, reflecting not only on the short story, but also on other forms of 'fragmented' storytelling, which are at the same time similar to the short story, in their being made of short pieces, and opposite to it, in their aiming to longer forms. These similar/opposite episodic forms of narrative are the series of short novels, comics books, TV episodes, and podcasts. Why has episodic storytelling been, and continues to be, so popular? Where does its specific power lie, and what can it tell us about the power of storytelling more widely? What can be told through fragments and how? These questions will be addressed by means of close textual analysis of a selection of case studies, with a consideration of storytelling in social media taking place at the end of the module.

The module is divided in two sections: 'Short Stories' and 'Series'.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- analyse and compare different forms of storytelling;
- contextualise forms of storytelling;
- understand key rhetorical and narrative techniques;
- work across different media.

Practical and transferable skills

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- analyse, compare, and interpret texts;
- present complex ideas in clear form, both orally and in writing;
- work both independently and in a team;
- manage time and deadlines.

Assessment

- 70% class test
- 30% oral presentation



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