

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Short Cuts: Writing in Brief  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **5112ENGL** (122151)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Joe Moran	Y
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ5      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 37  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 163

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2
Workshop	2

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1500 word critical analysis	30	
Essay	AS2	3000 word essay	70	

### Aims

- To analyse a wide variety of short writing, both Anglophone and translated works, from the post-Second World War era, such as short stories, fragments, aphorisms, prose poetry, diary entries, letters and essays;*
- To use this short writing to develop students' skills of close reading and textual*

analysis;

3. To explore the relationship between short writing and modernity/contemporary culture.

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review key issues and debates around the study of short writing;
- 2 Relate these types of writing, from a wide geographical and cultural context, to their broader historical moment;
- 3 Apply skills of close reading and contextual analysis in order to interpret these texts.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 word critical analysis	1	2	3
3000 word essay	1	2	3

## Outline Syllabus

*The key texts studied will vary from year from year and will be subject to staff expertise, but they might include: the New Yorker short story (eg John Updike, John Cheever); Raymond Carver, Short Cuts [and the Robert Altman film]; 'Dirty realism' (Bobbie Ann Mason, Jayne Anne Phillips); the 'lyric essay' (Joan Didion, Annie Dillard, John D'Agata, Eula Biss, Maggie Nelson); short writing from Britain and the Commonwealth (Janet Frame, J.G. Ballard, John Berger, Julian Barnes); fragmentary cultural theory by, for example, Roland Barthes, Jean Baudrillard, Maurice Blanchot; short works in translation by Tove Jansson, Italo Calvino, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Haruki Murakami.*

*Learning Activities*

## Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops.

## Notes

Short Cuts will analyse a wide variety of short writing, both Anglophone and translated works, from the post-Second World War era to the present day. The short-form writing it will explore will range from short stories to essays, prose poems to aphorisms, and it will be particularly interested in literature that marries these forms and evades conventional categories. It aims to introduce students to a wide variety of intellectually exciting, playful and inventive work within a short space; and, in the

process, to hone students' skills of close and creative reading.