



# ITALY READS

## *Scholarship for Professional Development Course for Italy Reads High School Teachers*

### **Italy Reads 2018 Flannery O'Connor – Professional Development Course**

**Italy Reads** is John Cabot University's community-based reading and cultural exchange program that began in 2009 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for **The Big Read Rome**. The book chosen for **Italy Reads 2018** will be a selection of Flannery O'Connor's Complete Short Stories. **Italy Reads 2018** will include: a keynote speech by an expert on O'Connor; a theater production of a play inspired her work; screenings of a film adaptation of her work, teacher training workshops; Italy Reads public lectures, student intercultural exchanges; discussion groups; teaching materials related to the author and her work.

In preparation for Italy Reads 2018, John Cabot University is offering **30 scholarships to attend a Professional Development Course (30 hrs.) on Flannery O'Connor**. Interested applicants must fit the criteria and follow the procedures detailed in the following sections.

**Course Title:** *The Mystery of Writing: Teaching with Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories*  
**Instructors:** Andrew Rutt and Elena Buia Rutt  
**Language of instruction:** English

This course will focus on this Southern Gothic writer and essayist who is internationally recognized as one of the finest voices of American letters. The first female fiction writer born in the twentieth century to have her works collected and published by the Library of America, Flannery O'Connor's thirty-two short stories are considered exemplary of the genre.

Characterized by the struggle of O'Connor's unsuspecting agents of grace on their tortuous road to freedom and redemption, the course is designed to deepen and expand our ability to read, to analyze, and to compare the American author's prose. The course intends to help the participants to become familiar with a narrative capable of displacing our perception of what we previously considered familiar, and radicalize our vision to the point of displacing our sense of self and our conception of freedom and choice.

At the outset, we will talk about background information that will help the participants garner an understanding of O'Connor's narrative. This will include biographical information about O'Connor herself and about the historical period and literary milieu of which she was writing. We will contextualize the author in the Southern literature tradition, explore the writers O'Connor herself read and reviewed, and the writers who were her contemporaries and the artists influenced by her books today, for example, Bruce Springsteen and Quentin Tarantino. Intended to enrich the participants understanding of the author which will contribute to their teaching of her writing, and the short story genre.

In each class, we will discuss one of O'Connor's short story, explore her style and her vision. Since this is a course orientated to those who teach O'Connor, each participant will be asked to present a short story and a critical analysis on a particular topic of O'Connor narrative. Your instructors will be available to consult with you (if you would like) before your presentations to help you choose materials and strategies for looking at particular short stories in class. By the end of the course, the course participants should feel comfortable planning and giving lessons on O'Connor's short stories.

The course will take place from **18 January to 3 May 2018. It will meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m. each Thursday**. Attendance at all class meetings is required. Applicants must teach English literature in a *liceo* or high school and be official participants in the **Italy Reads** program.

**Scholarship** – Winners will receive a certificate of award and final certification of the total number of hours (30) of Professional Development. Participants will not receive a university transcript of university credit for this course.

**Procedure for Application** - Application Form and Essay. Applicants must fill in the form below and complete the essay as specified.

*Review by Committee* - The application and essay will be reviewed by Professor Carlos Dews and Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Mary Merva.

**Applications for the scholarship must be received by JCU before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 11 December 2017.** Scholarship winners will be announced before 15 December 2017.



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for Italy Reads High School Teachers*

**Italy Reads 2018 Flannery O'Connor – Professional Development Course**

## Applicant Information

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ CAP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been a high school teacher? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taught American literature? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taught or are you familiar with the work of Flannery O'Connor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay

In 1-2 pages, please discuss your previous experience with Italy Reads or The Big Read Rome and how you felt you and your students benefited from the programs **OR** discuss how you feel your participation in a Professional Development Course on Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories could enhance your abilities as a teacher.

Please return the completed application by **11 December 2017** to one of the following:

-by email to: [italyreads@johncabot.edu](mailto:italyreads@johncabot.edu)

-by fax to: 06 6832088 (Attention: Italy Reads)