

## **Course Description**

This course explores the genres of fable and parable and analyzes their various definitions, traditions, and manifestations in the Western heritage. Beginning with Aesop's fables and their reception since Antiquity, we shall study literary examples mainly from European and American traditions. What is the impact of the idea that less is more, that saying something most effectively means using as few words as possible? What are the features of minimalist aesthetics and who are its proponents in literature, art, and film?

Readings include works by Aesop, Jean de La Fontaine, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Hans Christian Anderson, Juan Manuel, E.T.A. Hoffman, Bertolt Brecht, Franz Kafka, Kurt Schwitters, Carl Ewald, Berta Lask, Hermynia zur Mühlen, Anna Mosegard, Joachim Ringelnatz, Hermynia zur Mühlen, Béla Illés, Joel Chandler Harris, George Orwell, and George Ade and the books will be ordered at Vons.