

Department of English & Writing Studies

Mystery and Detective Fiction
English 2074F (001)
Fall 2017

Instructor: Manina Jones

Course Date/Time: M 11:30 am-12:30 pm,
W 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Course Location: Arts & Humanities 2B04

Course Description

Mystery stories explore matters of life and death. They engage problems involving the law, justice, and morality. They address fundamental questions of identity and agency. This course introduces students to the critical study of popular mystery and detective fiction from a range of historical periods and national contexts. It will examine fiction, film, television and radio. 3 hours, 0.5 course

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify and define a popular literary genre, see how it has developed over time, and understand how and why this highly entertaining genre should be taken seriously in its historical, cultural, political, social, and psychological dimensions;
- Explain a variety of theoretical and rhetorical approaches to popular literature;
- Realize a heightened appreciation of how literary effects are achieved and why they are important. This will include the ability to identify, understand and analyse such elements as genre, style, plot, character, point of view, imagery, theme, setting, irony, tone, symbols.
- Deploy written communication skills in the clear and organized presentation of ideas, especially in the construction of an argument with an effective thesis and a logical development supported by adequate evidence from the text(s) under discussion.

Course Materials

Short Stories

A selection of stories available
via OWL (see schedule).

Novels

(2012)

Christie, Agatha. *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Mosley, Walter. *Devil in a Blue Dress*.

Paretsky, *Bitter Medicine*.

Rankin, Ian. *Fleshmarket Close*.

Reichs, Kathy. *Déjà Dead*.

Films

The Maltese Falcon (1941)

Television

Sherlock 2.1 "A Scandal in Belgravia"

CSI 5.11 "Viva Las Vegas!" (2005)

The Bridge/Broen Pilot (2014)

Radio

Dragnet, "The Brick Bat Slayer" (1949)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Assignment	Value	Date	Length
In-class writing exercise	5%	October 2 nd	15 mins.
Passage analysis	15%	October 16 th	1000 words
Test	15%	October 30 th	50 mins.
In-class writing exercise	5%	November 22 nd	15 mins.
Essay assignment	25%	December 4 th	1500 words
Final Examination	35%	TBA	3 hours

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Timetable:

Tentative schedule of readings and lectures

Date	Reading or Topic
Monday, September 11	Reading Popular Fiction: Introduction
Wednesday, September 13	Early Writers Story: Poe, "Murders in the Rue Morgue;"
Monday, September 18	Story: Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (OWL);
Wednesday September 20	Television: <i>Sherlock</i> 2.1, "A Scandal in Belgravia" (iTunes)
Monday, September 25	Story: Doyle, "Adventure of the Speckled Band" (OWL)
Wednesday, September 27	Story: Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers" (OWL)
Monday, October 2	The Golden Age of Detection: the puzzle plot
Wednesday, October 4	Novel: Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i>
	READING WEEK
Monday, October 16	Hard-Boiled Fiction and Film
Wednesday, October 18	Film: Huston (dir.), <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>
Monday, October 23	Novel: Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i>
Wednesday, October 25	
Monday, October 30	Story: Grafton, "The Parker Shotgun" (OWL)
Wednesday, November 1	
Monday, November 6	Mosley, <i>Devil in a Blue Dress</i>

Wednesday, November 8	
Monday, November 13	The Police Procedural
Wednesday, November 15	Radio: <i>Dragnet</i> "The Brick Bat Slayer" (iTunes); Story: McBain, "Sadie When She Died;" Hillerman, "Chee's Witch" (OWL)
Monday, November 20	Novel: Rankin, <i>Fleshmarket Close</i>
Wednesday, November 22	
Monday, November 27	The CSI Phenomenon and Nordic Noir
Wednesday, November 29	Television: <i>CSI</i> 5.1 "Viva Las Vegas!" Television: <i>The Bridge/Broen</i> (Sweden-Denmark) Pilot
Monday, December 4	Novel: Reichs, <i>Déjà Dead</i>
Wednesday, December 6	Solutions? Exam Review

Additional Information:

Papers submitted after the due date without prior permission will be deducted 2% per day late, *including* weekends. Papers handed in after the assignment has been returned to other students will not normally be accepted.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.