

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Mystery and Detective Fiction****English 2074F (001)**

Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Manina Jones**Course Day/Time:** Mon. 11:30-12:30  
Wed. 10:30-12:30**Course Location:** FNB 1270**Delivery Type:** In Person

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Mystery stories aren't just light entertainment. They explore matters of life and death. They investigate problems involving the law, justice, and morality. They address fundamental questions of security, 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 a selection of fiction, film, television, and radio narratives.

3 hours, 0.5 course

**General Objectives:**

- To help you identify and define a popular literary **genre** (detective fiction), 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**;
- To explain a variety of **theoretical, rhetorical, and formal approaches** to popular literature;
- To help you a facility with the **tools and language of literary analysis** and thus 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.
- To support you in developing your **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**Required Course Texts** (tentative)**Short Stories**

Edgar Allan Poe, "Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841)

Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1891)

---. "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (1892)

Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers"\*

Ed McBain, "Sadie When She Died"\*

\*available on OWL

### **Films**

*The Maltese Falcon* (1941)  
*Devil in a Blue Dress* (1990)

### **Television**

*Sherlock 2.1* "A Scandal in Belgravia" (2012)

### **Radio Drama**

Dragnet, "The Brick Bat Slayer" (1949)

### **Novels**

Boulley, Angeline. *Firekeeper's Daughter* (2021)  
Chandler, Raymond. *The Big Sleep* (1939)  
Christie, Agatha. *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926)  
Paretsky, Sara. *Bad Medicine* (1987)  
Reichs, Kathy. *Déjà Dead* (1998)

### Methods of Evaluation

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Length</b>
Writing exercise 1	5%	Sept. 28	in class
Passage analysis	15%	Oct. 17	1000 words
Test	15%	Nov. 7	in class
Writing exercise 2	5%	Nov. 21	in class
Essay	25%	Dec. 5	1500 words
Final Exam	35%	TBA	3 hours

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>.


### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

### Additional Information

- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend class and take notes for yourself. Tests, exams, exercises, and essays will assess your analytical skills, your understanding and recall of literary texts and specific material covered in lecture and class discussion.
  - **PowerPoint:** lecture slides may be posted on OWL, *but they by no means fully represent the content of the class*. Lecture notes will not be distributed to students.
  - **Reading:** Prior to each class, you should complete the assigned reading. The reading for this course is very pleasant, but the pace can be a challenge for some: the schedule is set up to help you *read ahead* when the load is lighter.
  - **Course Content and Language:** The content of this course will engage with powerful and potentially upsetting representations of violence, race, and sex. I will do my best to alert you in advance to particularly difficult moments, and steer you through a discussion of these issues with sensitivity, respect, and care. While it may be employed in the creative texts on the course (for reasons we can discuss), the use of derogatory, racist, sexist language will not be tolerated in this class.
  - **Respect:** You are expected to treat other students in the class and members of the teaching team with respect, and you should expect them to do likewise. Please let the course instructor or TA know if you have any concerns.
  - **Electronic Devices Policy:** Laptops and other electronic devices in class must be used appropriately. Respectful use of electronic devices means that the material you have on screen at any time must relate directly to the course material being discussed. Students using electronic devices in inappropriate ways will be asked to leave the class.
  - **OWL:** Check OWL regularly. Important information about the course will be posted, including information on cancelled classes, resources, weekly expectations, lectures, assignments, tests, and the exam.
  - **Office hours:** Your teaching team has scheduled office hours when we wait eagerly for students to drop by. You may also make an appointment for an alternative time. You are free to consult in person or via Zoom.
  - **E-mail:** Allow 24 hours for a response and remember that we may not check e-mail in the evenings or on weekends. If you want to have a discussion about lecture material, essay or exam expectations, course readings, or anything that requires an extended conversation, that's best done in person. Do not use email to submit essays.
  - **Submit your papers on time.** Papers submitted after the due date without prior permission will be deducted 2% per day late, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to other students will not normally be accepted.
  - **Academic Integrity.** As members of a scholarly community, you have a duty to conduct yourself with honesty and responsibility. Don't be afraid to ask questions about how to identify and employ outside sources in your work. See Academic Offenses, Plagiarism, and Plagiarism Checking below.
-  I have a hearing impairment. If you speak directly to me, so that I can see your face, I will be better able to understand you. mj

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

The full policy is set out here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Religious Accommodation:**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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](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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Timetable

TBA

Land Acknowledgment

Western's land acknowledgment reminds us that the place we inhabit and the places we learn are complex physical and social spaces with histories that are often unrecognized. Wherever you are when you learn, take a moment to reflect on and respect the unique environments, peoples, and histories of the place you inhabit. Western University is located on the territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton (Neutral) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples.