

ENGLIT610
Detective Fiction

Spring 2020

Course Information

Credit hours: 3	Instructor: James McDougall Email: jmcdoug@scupi.cn Office: Zone 3, 321A Tel (Main Office): 28-6259-6919 Office hours: T/Th 10-12:00; Weds 2-4pm
Room: TBA	

Required Text:

1. *Course Pack* prepared by instructor
2. Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers, *A Writer's Reference*
Bedford/St. Martin's (or other available coursepack)

Course Description

Detective fiction has long been one of the most popular forms of genre fiction that can also be said to be one of the most truly global. As a genre that penetrates human motives detective stories allow us to plumb the depths of psychology, sociology, ethics, and philosophy. As a genre that has codified and often formulaic conventions, detective stories allow us to understand how aesthetics and narrative works together. This course will explore the history of the genre, the way that the genre has been used as a form of philosophical inquiry, in addition to looking at famous works, and global iterations in translation. In addition, the course will investigate the popularity of the genre, trail detective fiction across different media, and speculate on its hybrid futures.

Outcomes

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

1. Understand and apply critical theories and concepts to analyze texts
2. Understand the history and a variety of forms of the detective fiction drama
3. Compose expository, analytical, and persuasive written work that analyzes text
4. Create an interactive digital project that demonstrates knowledge of text
5. Work collaboratively to create a WOVE project

Objectives

In this course students will complete the following:

Assignment	Outcomes Addressed	Percentage of Final Grade
Close Reading Analysis	Outcomes 1, 3	30%
Genre Analysis	Outcomes 1-3	50%

Digital Project	Outcomes 4,5	40%
Routine Writing and In-Class Activities (Forum, Blog, Journaling, Short Responses, Social Media Posts)	Outcomes 1-5	10%

Tentative Schedule (subject to change according to the instructor’s discretion)

Week	Topic	Reading Du	Assignment Due
1	Introduction; asking questions; note taking—playing the game		In-class introductory email; using discussion boards;
2	Oedipus; The Hidden Treasure, The Locked Room, the Detective-as-Suspect, Searching and Misrecognizing one’s self: symbolic, imaginary, and the real	Oedipus	Discussion Forum 1
3	Confessional; Cryptography as Process and as Metaphor; Locked Room Puzzle; Short Story Form	Tell-Tale Heart; Murders in the Rue Morgue; The Purloined Letter	Discussion Forum 2
4	Sherlock Holmes; Empiricism and Intuition; Evidence, Clues, Solution: Elusive Pleasures; Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian World	<i>A Study in Scarlet</i> p1-27; The Greek Interpreter; “His Last Bow”	Discussion Forum 3
5	Father Brown; Motivation and the Psychology of Desire (criminal or otherwise); Belief; Theories of Good and Evil	“The Blue Cross,” “The Invisible Man”	Close Reading Analysis: Critical Detective and Genre Clues Draft
6	Agatha Christie; Fireside Detective Story; Detective Novel as Class Struggle; Geographies of Crime	Murder on the Orient Express; “Philomel Cottage”	Discussion Forum 4 Close Reading Analysis: Text Detective Final
7	The Big Sleep; Noir: McGuffins, Bureaucracy, Corruption; fallen world	Read 460-472; course pack #5	Discussion Forum 5
8	“Triffles” Sociology of Murder; Murder by Patriarchy; Revenge Fantasy; Knowledge-Power-Crime	Read 84-109	Discussion Forum 6
9	The Garden of Forking Paths," "Death and the Compass," and "Ibn Hakkam al-Bokhari, Dead in his Labyrinth." Postmodern interruption of the grandnarrative	Read 473-483; course pack #6	Discussion Forum 7
10	<i>Roshomon</i> ; Edogawa Rampo; ambiguity; parallax, perception, and judgment	Read 484-506; course pack #7	Discussion Forum 8: Analysis 2: Genre Detective Analysis Draft
11	Sociology of Crime 2: Race and Representation	Real Cool Killers Part 1	Analysis 2: Genre Detective Analysis Final

Week	Topic	Reading Du	Assignment Due
12	Real Cool Killers in Urban Spaces; Landscapes of Crime	Real Cool Killers Part 2	Discussion forum 9
13	Police Procedural: The Silence of the Lambs; Horror and the Detective	Silence of the Lambs	Discussion forum 10 Storyboard
14	Minority Report; Sci-Fi Detective and Speculative Fiction—Technology, Truth, Crime, Punishment	Minority Report	Group Plan
15	Blade Runner: Postmodern Noir Pastiche; Sci-Fi and the Detective; Oedipus Redux	Peer review/workshop materials	Group Draft
16	Mystery Theatre: Video game		Game and Review Due

Attendance

Students who miss more than two classes without an excuse will be deducted half of a letter grade for each additional absence (5 points out of a hundred from your final class average). Arriving late, leaving class during the lecture, or leaving the class early without an excuse will be recorded—missing class three times in any of these manners will be counted as one absence.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission. Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes. No late work will be accepted without instructor approval; it will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.

- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you will lose points for late work in this situation.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you will receive a “o” for that assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Writing Center Policy: first instance will result in failure in assignment with option of re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class