

Department of English & Writing Studies

Mystery and Detective Fiction

English 2074F (001)

Fall 2018

Instructor: Prof. Manina Jones

Course Date/Time: Mondays 11:30 am -

12:30 pm, Wednesdays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Course Location: University College 3110

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:

This course has several **general learning 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 and rhetorical 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

Short Stories

Edgar Allan Poe, "Murders in the Rue Morgue"

Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers"

Ed McBain, "Sadie WnS"

5. **OWL:** Important information about the course will be posted on OWL, including

