

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Mystery and Detective Fiction**

**English 2074F (001)**

Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Manina J1taTw 0.281Po TJ 0 Tc4huirecord. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no 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* ISBN 978-0-356-50061-1 CID 6 >>BDC-16.946 -1.641 Td (S)Tj 0.663 0 T Tc 0 Tw 0.8

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.

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