

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
**2227G: Crime Writing**  
Winter 2018

Section: # 001

Time/Room: Wednesdays 6:30pm-9:30pm in  
Sommerville House 3305

Instructor: Dr. Michael Arntfield  
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Office: Lawson Hall 3270

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:20pm &  
5:30pm-6:20pm

### Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the conventions of crime fiction through the interdisciplinary lens of both literary studies and criminology. Students will in turn become acquainted with the process of writing substantive and procedurally-accurate crime stories for a variety of media, including print, television, podcast, stage, and film. Drawing on classic and canonical works, as well as iconic crimes and trials, students will have an opportunity to write accurate crime stories for a variety of media.

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

### **Part I: The Literary Origins & Fundamentals of Crime Writing**

#### **Recommended readings for this section:**

Arntfield, M. A. (2016) *Gothic Forensics*. Palgrave-Macmillan

Crow, C.L. (1999) *American Gothic: An Anthology: 1787-1916*. Wiley-Blackwell

Poe, E. A. (2009) *Edgar Allan Poe: Complete Tales & Poems*. Castle Books

#### **Week 1 (Jan. 10): The Gothic Tradition & Crime Fiction**

### **Part III: The Cozy Whodunit**

#### **Recommended readings for this section:**

- Allingham, A. (1929) *The Crime at Black Dudley*. Jarrolds Publishing  
Christie, A. (1934) *Murder on the Orient Express*. Harper-Collins  
Collins, W. (1868) *The Moonstone*. Wadsworth Classics  
Crispin, E. (1946) *The Moving Toyshop*. Vintage  
Winters, B. (2012) *The Last Policeman*. Quirk Books

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 7): Conventions, Style, & Narrative Staples**

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: 127-135

#### **Week 6 (Feb. 14): Overview of Key Works & Peer Review Workshop**

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 11-26 & 127-135

#### **Week 7 (Feb. 21): READING WEEK ó NO CLASS**

Review readings as required.

#### **Week 8 (Feb. 28): Section Summary**

No readings. **Assignment #2 due electronically by Feb. 28**

### **Part IV: The Hardboiled Thriller**

#### **Recommended readings for this section:**

- Cain, J.M. (1944) *Double Indemnity*. Vintage  
Chandler, R. (1939) *The Big Sleep*. Vintage  
Hammett, D. (1941) *The Maltese Falcon*. Vintage  
Hammett, D. (1934) *The Thin Man*. Vintage  
Moore, A. & Campbell, E. (1999) *From Hell: Collected Edition*

## **Part V: The Police Procedural**

### **Recommended readings for this section:**

Connelly, M. (1994) *The Concrete Blonde*. Grand Central Publishing  
Ellroy, J. (1990) *LA Confidential*. Grand Central Publishing  
Ellroy, J. (1987) *The Black Dahlia*. Grand Central Publishing  
Harris, T. (1981) *Red Dragon*. G.P. Putnam  
McBain, E. (1956) *Cop Hater*. Pocket Books

### **Week 12 (March 28): Conventions, Style, & Narrative Staples**

Required Readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 41-49, 85-106

### **Week 13 (April 4): Peer Review Workshop & Course Wrap-up**

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 187-207

### **Week 14 (April 11): END OF TERM ó NO CLASS**

**Assignment #4 due electronically by April 11 at 4:30pm**



### **Assignment Format**

All assignments are to be typed, using 12 point font unless otherwise specified, and submitted  
elam

## Assignment Submission

Assignments are due in-class on the date specified on the schedule. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day, including weekends, unless granted an extension at least 72 hours in advance and in writing. You must apply for extensions ahead of the due date; they are not automatic. We penalize late assignments; however, you need to know that deadlines are not a matter of negotiation. For these reasons, all assignments will be due on the date specified barring some unforeseen changes in circumstances or catastrophic event. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as an emerging author. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE TERM ENDS.**

In addition to all assignments being submitted electronically for grading purposes, note that in this course the final version of each of your essays will go through OWL Sakai to turnitin.com to verify originality. If hard copies are at some point deemed necessary, please submit essays to the Writing Department Drop Box outside Ncyuq JcnnTqq o "5492." o cmkpi "uwtg" {qw" kpenwfg" {qwt" rtqhguuqtøu" pc o g" cpf" {qwt" ugevkqp" number. However, do not:

fax assignments

e-mail assignments

Keep copies of all assignments submitted.

*N.B: In addition to submitting final drafts on/by the due date for each assignment, you are required to bring a rough draft of each assignment to class for each of the scheduled peer-review sessions. Failure to attend a scheduled peer-review session with a sufficiently completed rough copy to enable a meaningful review, or to otherwise participate in the peer-review session, **will** result in the earned mark for that assignment being reduced by 10%. In other words, an assignment that would have normally earned a 75, for example, will instead receive a recorded grade of 65. This penalty will be applied in addition to any other penalties incurred, e.g. for late submission.*

## Attendance policies

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more.*

However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will

**Note:** course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at Western University **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict immediately contact an academic counsellor in your order to write such a test in another class, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

**Attendance also extends to tardiness.** If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an

### **Medical Accommodation Policy**

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

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

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