

Summer 2017

AP/EN 3178 3.0A (S1)

The English Detective Novel

Course Director:

Heather Campbell

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Mondays and Wednesdays 4-7pm

Description:

This course will explore the development of the detective novel from its beginnings to the present. Actually, the jury is still out on the identity of the very first detective novel—some scholars like to go back to *Oedipus Rex* and beyond—but we will begin with two of the strongest contenders for the honour: Edgar Allan Poe's Dupin stories and Wilkie Collins' *The Moonstone*. After that, we will proceed semi-chronologically, so as to discern the development through the introduction of the professional sleuth, such as Sherlock Holmes, the so-called Golden Age between the wars (Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers etc.) to the growth in literary merit and the development in depth and subtlety that characterizes the genre in the present. Along the way, we will also look at satires, gentle and otherwise; particular movements within the genre; the importance of literary concepts such as the pastoral and social commentary; and anything else that strikes us. We will also consider the genre in film and in television dramatization.

Category:

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Area:

N/A

Period:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Attendance and active participation, 10%; 1000 word essay, 15%; 2000 word essay, 30%; 2 short response papers, 10% each; final exam, 25%.

Reading List:

Texts have been ordered through the bookstore, but all the titles are widely available, both new and used, in other bookstores and through the public libraries of the GTA. Any edition will do.

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*

Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*

Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd and The 4.50 from Paddington*

Josephine Tey, *The Daughter of Time*

Margery Allingham, *The Tiger in the Smoke*

E.C. Bentley, *Trent's Last Case*

P.D James, *A Certain Justice*

Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*

Ellis Peters, *One Corpse Too Many*

Laurie R. King, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

Jasper fforde, *The Eyre Affair*

Ariana Franklin, *Mistress of the Art of Death*

Susan Hill, *The Various Haunts of Men*

Films and TV

Gosford Park

Sherlock, Series 1, Episode 1: A Study in Pink

River

Happy Valley, Series 1

Some additions and/or deletions are possible before classes begin.

Open To:

Yr 2,3,4