

## ***Fall/Winter 2018-2019***

**AP/EN 2178 3.0M (W)**

### ***The English Detective Novel***

**Course Director:**

Prof. Marie-Christine Leps (mcleps@aol.com)  
332 Calumet College  
Office Hours: W 1-2 and by appointment.

**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Seminar: Wednesday 2:30-5:30pm

**Description:**

This year we will study the emergence and development of the English Detective Novel through several lenses, to gather the many relations that make and transform its meanings. In other words, the detective novel will not be studied as a thing in itself, but as a changing practice contributing to culture. We will begin by examining the conventions and pressures of genre, and compare two major models: the detective with the helper/writer model (Holmes and Watson, then and now), and the “golden age” fiction of the sole investigator of multiple suspects (Miss Marple in novel and film). To discern the political and economic dimensions of crime narratives, we will first examine the historical correlations between crime facts and fictions, as reported by the Victorian penny press (the Ripper murders) and imagined in stories serialized in newspapers. We will also compare the narrative science of detection and emerging criminology (with Cesare Lombroso), to see how they variously produced different truths about criminals. Throughout our investigations, gender, race, sexuality, and class will be foregrounded, as well as the interrelations among detective fiction, nationalism, and imperialism.

We will also interrogate the very “Englishness” of the English Detective Novel by examining its status as world literature. Even Sherlock Holmes, the paradigmatic English Detective, compared himself (favourably) to previous literary sleuths, the French detectives C. Auguste Dupin (imagined by the American Edgar Allan Poe) and Inspecteur Lecoq (written by the French Émile Gaboriau). Encountering Indian, Chinese, and Tibetan versions of the Holmes and Watson team, and considering recent adaptations in novels (by Lyndsay Faye and Laurie R. King) and television series (*Sherlock* and *Elementary*) will allow us to see how this

model has circulated and been adapted in different national, political, and cultural contexts, and to what ends.

In order to improve research, writing, and critical skills, we will share each other’s work through short presentations on assigned topics, and peer edit, in class, the early phases of the final research paper in seminar.

**Category:**

D

**Historical Requirement:**

Period II (1700-1900) 3 credits

**Requirements:**

Short class presentations on assigned topics: 40% (total of 1000 words, excluding notes and bibliography)

Final research paper: 40% (2000 word essay, excluding notes and bibliography)

Topic and Annotated Bibliography, plus peer-editing: 10%

Thesis statement and outline, plus peer-editing: 10%

Final essay: 20%

Final in-class exam: 20%

**Reading List:**

Cheng, Xiaoqing. "The Ghost in the Villa" (1947), in Timothy Wong, trans. *Stories for Saturday: Twentieth-Century Chinese Popular Fiction*. U Hawaii P, 2003. [made available in class]

Christie, Agatha. *A Murder is Announced* (1950). William Morrow Paperbacks, 2011; film version with Geraldine McEwan, 2005.

Doherty, Robert. *Elementary*, Series 1, episode 1 "pilot."

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) [any unabridged edition, also available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/244/244-h/244-h.htm>]

... "The Man with the Twisted Lip," in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1891) [any unabridged edition, also available at:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/48320/48320-h/48320-h.htm#vi>]

Faye, Lyndsay. *Dust and Shadow: An Account of the Ripper Killings by Dr. John H. Watson*. Simon & Shuster, 2009.

Gaboriau, Émile. Selections from *The Lerouge Case* (1865).

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3802/3802-h/3802-h.htm>

King, Laurie R. *The Beekeeper's Apprentice, Or On the Segregation of the Queen*. St Martin's Press, 1994.

Lombroso Cesare, selections from *Criminal Man* (1876) made available in class from <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/29895/29895-h/29895-h.htm>

Moffat, Steven. "A Study in Pink" (2010), *Sherlock*, Series 1 Episode 1.

Norbu, Jamyang. *The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes: The Adventures of the Great Detective in India and Tibet*. (1999). Bloomsbury, 2003. [Any edition; on reserve in Scott]

Poe, Edgar Allen. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841); "The Mystery of Marie Rogêt" (1842-1843); "The Purloined Letter" (1844) [any unabridged edition; also available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/25525/25525-h/25525-h.htm>]

Satyajit, Ray. "Feluda in London" (1989), in *The Complete Adventures of Feluda* Vol.2. Penguin Books India, 2015 [made available in class]

Sun Liaohong, "The Sunglasses Society" (1924), in Timothy Wong, trans. *Stories for Saturday: Twentieth-Century Chinese Popular Fiction*. U Hawaii P, 2003. [made available in class]

Essays by D. Damrosch, M. B. Harris-Peyton, E. Mandel, and W. Yan will be made available.

**Open To:**

YR 2, 3, 4