

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 2178 3.0A (F)	The English Detective Novel
Course Director:	Art Redding e-mail: aredding@yorku.ca virtual office hours by appointment
Time:	Tuesday, 8:30-11:30
Delivery Format:	REMOTE – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times. For more information, see the Description and/or Requirements below.
Description:	<p>This course explores the emergence and development of the English detective novel as expressed (primarily by British practitioners) of the genre from Arthur Conan Doyle to P. D. James, examining its history, conventions, values, popularity, and possible limits.</p> <p>We will further examine classic novels of detection from the "golden age" of crime fiction by Agatha Christie, considering her transformative uses of gender/age characterizing the detective (Miss Marple, in print and in a film version). Among other topics we will examine are: the resolution of mysteries/puzzles through the use of the practices of deduction and analysis; the "locked room" mystery; and the limits of reason. As well, we will examine the way in which contemporary fictions develop this popular genre. We will consider all these texts through a variety of critical approaches</p> <p>Although our primary focus will be on the English detective novel, we will also situate and interrogate the origins and development of that fiction in the context of broader world narratives; for example, those of the French detectives C. Auguste Dupin (by the American, Edgar Allan Poe) and Jules Maigret (by the Belgian writer, Georges Simenon), as well as American "hard-boiled" fiction by Dashiell Hammett and Chester Himes. A further critique of the limits of the traditional detective narrative will be examined in the postmodern short novel <i>City of Glass</i>, by the American, Paul Auster. In order to get some sense of the global and contemporary resonance of the genre, we will close with recent works by Aboriginal American-Canadian writer Thomas King and Nigerian Oyinkan Braithwaite.</p> <p>The objectives of the course will be to enable students to engage with texts in the genre of the detective novel, and to acquire the skills to analyze, compare, and interpret those texts.</p>
Category:	D
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	2 Reading Responses (of approximately 500 words): 2 x 10%=20% 1 Major Essay (2000-2500 words): 30 % 1 Final Exam (take home): 20 %

	<p>1 Seminar Presentation (1000 words): 20 % Class Participation: 10%</p>
<p>Reading List:</p>	<p>Paul Auster, <i>City of Glass</i> Oyinkan Braithwaite, <i>My Sister, The Serial Killer</i> Raymond Chandler, “The Simple Art of Murder” Agatha Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> Arthur Conan Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”; “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” Dashiell Hammett, <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> Chester Himes, <i>Cotton Comes to Harlem</i> P. D. James, <i>An Unsuitable Job for a Woman</i> Thomas King, <i>The Red Power Murders</i> Ronald Knox, “Decalogue” Edgar Allan Poe, “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”; “The Purloined Letter”; “The Philosophy of Composition” Dorothy L. Sayers, <i>Gaudy Night</i> Georges Simenon, <i>Maigret in Montmartre</i></p> <p>I have ordered editions of the novels through the York University Bookstore (who will deliver) or you can obtain copies from Amazon.ca, alibris.com, or other online markets. Note that many of these works are in the public domain. The short stories by Poe and Conan Doyle are easily accessed via the internet. Other pieces might be found online at Project Gutenberg or on The Internet Archive (it is worth obtaining a free membership, which allows you to check out electronic versions of books). For example, you can find links to pdf. and other versions of <i>Gaudy Night</i> at: https://www.fadedpage.com/showbook.php?pid=20140201</p> <p>The brief essays are also easily accessible online. Father Knox’s Decalogue can be found many place, including here: http://www.thrillingdetective.com/trivia/triv186.html Chandler’s “The Simple Art of Murder can also be found many places online, including here: http://ae-lib.org.ua/texts-c/chandler_the_simple_art_of_murder_en.htm</p>
<p>Open To:</p>	<p>Year 2, 3, 4</p>