

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
2227F: Crime Writing
Fall 2022

Section: # 001

Time/Room: Mondays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. in UCC 67

Instructor: Dr. Michael Arntfield

www.michaelarntfield.com

Email: marntfie@uwo.ca

Office: University College 2428

Office hours: Mondays & Tuesdays, 1:30-2:15 p.m. (via appointment only)

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 author manuscripts reflecting the four major subgenres: the amateur detective, the cozy whodunit, the hardboiled thriller, and the police procedural. Students will also be introduced to the theory and practice of criminal evidence and procedure, as well as the study of

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: The Gothic Tradition & Crime Fiction

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 1-8, 109-115

Part II: The Amateur Detective

Recommended readings for this section:

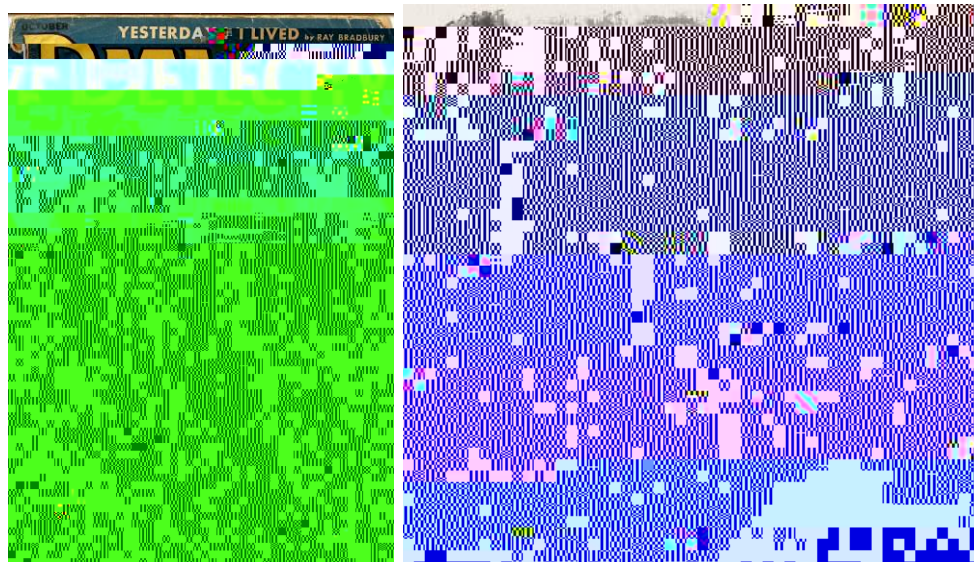
- Chesterton, G.K. (1910) *The Blue Cross*. Chesterton & Brown
Christie, A. (1930) *Murder at the Vicarage*. Harper-Collins
Doyle, A.C. (1902) *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Oxford
Gardner, E.S. (1961) *The Case of the Postponed Murder*. Pocket Books
Minichino, C. (1998) *The Helium Murder*. Avalon

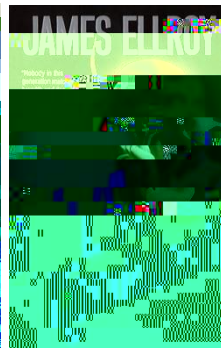
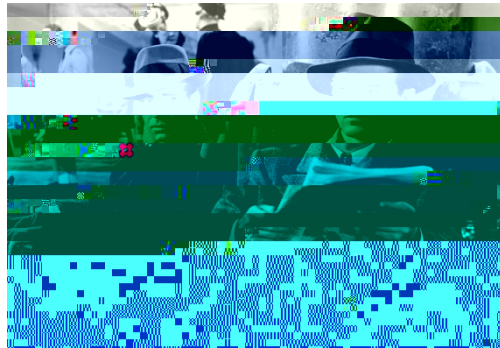
Week 2: Conventions, Style, & Narrative Staples

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 27-33, 116-126

Week 3: Overview of Key Works

Required readings: Arntfield, Messent: pp. 127-135





Part V: The Police Procedural

Assignment Format

All assignments are to be typed, using 12 point font unless otherwise specified. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and the professor's name on the first page.

When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA, APA, or CMS standards for documentation, detailed in *The Brief Penguin Handbook* sections 22, 23, 24, and 25.

Assignment Deadlines

Assignments are due via OWL by 11:59 p.m. on the date specified on the schedule. Late essays will be

Note that the three-hour exemption does not, however, apply to missed peer review sessions. These editing workshops are essential to the collective success of the class. Failing to attend peer review workshops without corresponding approved accommodation will result in an immediate 10% deduction on the associated pending assignment once submitted.

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: '**Accommodation Policy**' below.

Note: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another 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 with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a Writing class in 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 hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy,

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The University Senate requires the following statement to appear on course outlines:

“Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded and that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, the University reserves the right to remove the student from the course and to delete it from the student’s record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to his or her fees in the event that he or she is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

Accommodation Policy

Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors by email within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Additional Resources:

<https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Student Support Services _____

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

My Policy on Resubmissions:

A recent tech-driven trend has also, rather regrettably, necessitated a new course policy on what might be best described as the questionable “wrong version” submission of assignments on OWL. In brief, all submissions for course assignments are deemed to be *first and final* as though they were (and as was the case for the initial 130-year history of this university) hard copies either hand delivered in person or submitted via department mailbox. Thus, you are *not* permitted to make supplemental submissions via OWL, email, or even in person as addendums to your original submission.