

# ENG-2760: DETECTIVE FICTION: MYSTERY, MURDER, AND MALICE

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: ENG-2760 : Detective Fiction: Mystery, Murder, and Malice**

**Board of Trustees:**

2011-05-26

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2019

**Subject Code**

ENG - English

**Course Number:**

2760

**Title:**

Detective Fiction: Mystery, Murder, and Malice

**Catalog Description:**

Study of detective fiction as a genre from the nineteenth century to the present day.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1020 College Composition II or ENG-102H Honors College Composition II; or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Read critically, interpret, and analyze, both verbally and in writing, selected works of detective fiction.

**Objective(s):**

1. Read at the literal as well as at the inferential level.
2. Read critically and analytically, evaluating assigned selections on the basis of the established criteria of detective fiction.
3. Identify and analyze strategies of detective fiction.
4. Discuss the different categories and subgenres of detective fiction.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Write college level papers critically analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting detective fiction, incorporating research, using Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation.

**Objective(s):**

1. Write informed critical analyses about short stories and novels that focus on detective fiction.
  2. Conduct college level literary research.
  3. Utilize research databases to find scholarly articles.
  4. Read critically, summarize, analyze, and synthesize current scholarship on detective fiction.
  5. Examine the historical development of detective fiction from the nineteenth century to the present day.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Journals
4. Critical essays
5. Research Projects
6. Group Projects
7. Class Participation

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Historical development of detective fiction as a genre
  - a. Edgar Allan Poe
  - b. Wilkie Collins
  - c. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
  - d. G. K. Chesterton
  - e. Agatha Christie
  - f. Dorothy Sayres
  - g. Ngaio Marsh
  - h. Marjorie Allingham
  - i. Raymond Chandler
  - j. Dashiell Hammett
  - k. Ellery Queen
  - l. Rex Stout
  - m. Colin Dexter
  - n. P.D. James
  - o. Martha Grimes
  - p. Tony Hillerman
  - q. Walter Mosley
  - r. Sara Paretsky
  - s. Patricia Cornwell
  - t. Elizabeth George
2. Categories and subgenres of detective fiction
  - a. Mysteries featuring the private detective, including but not limited to the following:
    - i. E.A. Poe's C. Auguste Dupin
    - ii. Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes
    - iii. Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot
    - iv. Dorothy Sayres' Lord Peter Wimsey
    - v. Raymond Chandler's Phillip Marlowe
    - vi. Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade
    - vii. Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe
    - viii. Sara Paretsky's V.I. Warshawski
    - ix. Walter Mosley's Easy Rollins
  - b. Mysteries featuring the police detective, including but not limited to the following:
    - i. Colin Dexter's Inspector Morse
    - ii. P.D. James' Commander Adam Dagleish
    - iii. Elizabeth George's Inspector Lynley
    - iv. Tony Hillerman's Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee
    - v. Martha Grimes' Inspector Jury
    - vi. Jeffrey Deaver's Lincoln Rhymes
  - c. The Cozy Mystery, including but not limited to
    - i. Agatha Christie, Mary Roberts Rinehart
    - ii. M.C. Beaton
    - iii. Rhys Bowen
    - iv. Diane Mott Davidson.
  - d. The Specialized Mystery, which include categories such as the following:
    - i. Legal mysteries (John Mortimer, John Grisham)
    - ii. Medical mysteries (Robin Cook, Patricia Cornwell, Tess Gerritson)

- iii. Academic mysteries (Joan Paton Walsh, Amanda Cross, Joanne Dobson, Jennifer Lee Carrell)
- iv. Psychological mysteries (Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith, Joy Fielding, Stig Larsen)
- e. The Historical Mystery, including but not limited to
  - i. Peter Treymayne
  - ii. Ellis Peters
  - iii. Anne Perry
  - iv. C.J. Sansome,
  - v. Stephanie Barron.
- 3. Criteria and strategies of detective fiction
  - a. The crime
  - b. The victim
  - c. The motive
  - d. The opportunity
  - e. The method
  - f. The detective
  - g. The clues
  - h. The criminal
  - i. The solution
- 4. Critical scholarship and commentaries on Detective Fiction, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Howard Haycraft, *The Art of the Mystery Story*
  - b. Dilys Wynn, *Murder Ink*
  - c. Julian Symons, *Bloody Murder*
  - d. P.D. James, *Talking About Detective Fiction*

## Resources

Mansfield-Kelley, Deane and Lois A. Marchino, eds. *The Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction*. New York: Pearson/ Longman, 2005.

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Schwartz, Saul, ed. *Detective Story*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company, 1996.

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Carrel, Jennifer Lee. *Interred with Their Bones*. New York: Plume, 2008.

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Christie, Dame Agatha. *Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.

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Christie, Dame Agatha. *Miss Marple: The Complete Short Stories*. New York: Putnam, 1990.

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Clark, Mary Higgins. *The Shadow of Your Smile*. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2010.

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Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone*. New York: Oxford Univeristy Press, USA, 2000.

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Dobson, Joanne. *Death Without Tenure*. New York: Poisoned Pen Press, 2010.

---

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. New York: CreateSpace, 2010.

---

Fielding, Joy. *Still Life*. New York: Atria, 2009.

---

Haycraft, Howard, ed. *The Art of the Mystery Story*. New York: Carroll Graf, 1992.

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James, P.D. *Talking About Detective Fiction*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.

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James. P.D. *Cover Her Face*. New York: Scribner, 1990.

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James, P.D. *The Private Patient*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

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Larsen, Stieg. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

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Marsh, Ngaio. *Artists in Crime*. New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 1997.

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Marsh, Ngaio. *Enter a Murderer*. New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 1998.

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McCall Smith, Alexander. *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. New York: Anchor Books, 2002.

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Mosley, Walter. *Devil in a Blue Dress*. New York; Washington Square Press, 2002.

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Perry, Anne. *The Cater Street Hangman*. New York: Ballantine, 2008.

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Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*. New York: Doubleday, 1984.

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Rinehart, Mary Roberts. *The Yellow Room*. New York: Kensington Publishing, 1990.

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Rinehart, Mary Roberts. *The Swimming Pool*. New York: Kensington Publishing, 1991.

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Sayers, Dorothy. *Gaudy Night*. New York: Harper Torch, 2006.

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Slug, Michele B. *Crime on Her Mind: Fifteen Stories of Female Sleuths from the Victorian Era*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1975.

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Thomas-Graham, Pamela. *A Darker Shade of Crimson: An Ivy League Mystery*. New York: Simon and Shuster, 1998.

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