

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: English **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Fall 2000

Course Revised Implementation Date: September 2002

Course to be Reviewed: September 2006

<u>ENGL 270</u>	<u>Popular Fiction</u>	<u>3</u>
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE	DESCRIPTIVE TITLE	UCFV CREDITS

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course offers a study of one of the genres popularized in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries such as detective fiction, science fiction, horror, or historical romance.

RATIONALE: No course of this kind presently exists. Hopefully, it will appeal to students who are interested in these genres and who are reluctant to study the mainstream literary tradition for one reason or another. Yet, at the same time, this course would present opportunities to broach major topics common to the study of the canonical works.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Any two 100-level English courses - ENGL 105 or higher.

COURSE CO-REQUISITES: None

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	Lecture 45 hrs Laboratory hrs Seminar hrs Field Experience hrs	Student Directed Learning hrs Other - specify: hrs <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> TOTAL 45 HRS
--	--	---

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 35

Is transfer credit requested? **:** Yes **9** No

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): <u>T. Herron</u>	Chairperson: <u>Arts Curriculum Committee (E. Davis)</u>
Department Head: <u>R. Schuller</u>	Dean: <u>J.D. Tunstall, Ph.D.</u>
PAC: Approval in Principle <u>(Date)</u>	PAC: Final Approval: <u>March 27, 2002</u> <div style="text-align: right;">(Date)</div>

ENGL 270

NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces _____
(course #)

(b) cannot take N/A for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

For a study of detective fiction, the core list of texts would be chosen in large measure from among the following:

William Godwin, *Caleb Williams* (1794)
Edgar A. Poe, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1841)
Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* (1868)
A. Conan Doyle, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892)
Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926)
Dashiell Hammett, *The Glass Key* (1931)
Dorothy Sayers, *The Nine Tailors* (1934)
Michael Innes, *Lament for a Maker* (1938)
Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep* (1939)
Ira Levin, *A Kiss Before Dying* (1953)
Michael Gilbert, *Death of a Favourite Girl* (1980)
P.D. James, *The Skull Beneath the Skin* (1982)

- variant texts by these authors are possible
- an anthology of short fiction might substitute for two novels

OBJECTIVES:

The course will widen the students' literary background and also improve their skills in literary criticism, the writing of essays, and the oral presentation of ideas.

METHODS:

The standard format will involve a combination of lecture, seminar, and class discussion.

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Two essays
Seminar
Mid-term (optional)
Final exam

ENGL 270NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

COURSE CONTENT

For the detective fiction course, this is a possible outline designed around the previously listed authors.

Week 1	Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Background
Week 2	Philosophical, Cultural, and Literary Contexts of Godwin
Weeks 3 - 4	Poe, Language, and Freud's "Uncanny"
Weeks 4 - 5	Collins and the Romantic Sublime
Weeks 5 - 6	Conan Doyle, Deduction, and the Idea of Evidence
Weeks 6 - 7	Agatha Christie and the Cult of the Sleuth
Weeks 7 - 8	Dorothy Sayers and the Culture of English Aristocratic Society
Weeks 8 - 9	Michael Innes, Narrative, and Knowledge
Weeks 9 - 10	Dashiell Hammett, the Femme Fatale, and the "Hard-boiled" Detective
Weeks 10 - 11	Raymond Chandler and American Urban Culture
Weeks 11 - 12	Ira Levin and American Gothic
Weeks 12 - 13	Michael Gilbert and the Sexuality of Detection
Weeks 13 - 14	P.D. James and the Pastoral Detective Novel