

Department of English & Writing Studies

Sherlock Holmes and the Fiction of Detection
English 3361F (001)
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Michael Arntfield
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Lawson Hall 3270

Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00-3:20pm &
5:30-7:00pm or by appointment

Course Location: Talbot College 201

Course Date/Time: Monday 3:30-4:30pm &
Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or 1042E or 1042E or both of English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

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.

Objectives:

This course studies the detective figure in nineteenth-century literature and culture and its evolution across multiple media through to the present. This includes the legacy of specific literary figures—including but not limited to Sherlock Holmes—and how they have influenced both crime fiction and actual criminal investigations. Topics for discussion include: the science of deduction; British common law evidence and procedure; the evolution of surveillance; the role of the Victorian detective in modernizing police work; and, the concomitance between Gothic fiction and burgeoning medico-legal interest in specific psycho-sexual disorders. We will also examine how the literary detective has been used as a vehicle for advancing specific political and often polemical ideologies, all while exploring literary criminology as an emerging interdisciplinary field that bridges critical literary analysis with criminal profiling and forensics.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

- 📖 Arntfield, Michael & Marcel Danesi (2017) *Murder in Plain English*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.
- 📖 Redmond, Christopher (2009) *The Sherlock Holmes Handbook, 2nd Edition*. Toronto: Dundurn.

Recommended Text:

- 📖 Arntfield, Michael (2016) *Gothic Forensics: Criminal Investigative Procedure in Victorian Horror & Mystery*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan



Methods of Evaluation

1. Deduction Exercise – 250-500 words (10%)
2. Character Study Essay – 750-1000 words (20%)
3. Literary Criminology Research Paper – 3500-5000 words (30%)
4. Final Exam (30%)
5. Attendance, Participation & Class Work (10%)

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.



Tentative Course Schedule*:

Part I: Sherlock Holmes & the Forensic Gothic

‡ Week 1: The Intelligentsia & the Art and Science of Deduction

Read: Arntfield pp. ix-xiii & 1-12

Redmond pp. 12-37

‡ Week 2: Jack the Ripper, Police Modernization & the Victorian Detective

Read: Arntfield & Danesi pp. 11-25

Redmond pp. 38-65

‡ **Deduction Exercise Due in Wednesday's Class**

Part II: Literary Criminology

‡ Week 3: Criminal Paraphilias & the Epistemology of Insanity

Read: Arntfield pp. 105-134

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 27-86

Redmond pp. 66-94

‡ Week 4: Victimology & Suspectology in Fiction & Reality

Read: Arntfield pp. 33-54 & 205-222

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 87-142

‡ Week 5: Forensic Psychogeography, Place-Specific Crime & the 19th Century Industrial City

Read: Arntfield pp. 135-160

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 143-159

Redmond pp. 139-162

‡ **Character Study Due in Wednesday's Class**

Part III: Criminal Minds, Penny Dreadfuls & the Victorian Media

‡ Week 6: FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Read: Review previous readings as necessary

‡ Week 7: Copycat Crimes & Holdback Evidence

Read: Arntfield pp. 79-104

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 160-202

Redmond pp. 162-189

‡ Week 8: Narrative Theories of Criminal Violence

Read: Arntfield pp. 55-78

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 203-210

Redmond pp. 188-209

‡ Week 9: Forensic Author Attribution & the SCAN Technique

Read: Arntfield & Danesi pp. 275-297

Part IV: Supervillains & Serial Killers – Moriarty to Zodiac

‡ Week 10: Psychopaths in Literature, Film & Other Media

Read: Arntfield pp. 161-184

Arntfield & Danesi pp. 211-246

Redmond pp. 232-256

‡ Week 11: Staging, Subterfuge & Investigative Countermeasures

Read: Arntfield pp. 185-204

‡ Week 12: Elementary Observation & Linkage Analysis

Read: Redmond pp. 298-321

‡ Week 13: No Class

No readings

‡ **Research Paper Due via OWL by Wednesday at 4:00 pm**



***Topics subject to change by week as needed & based on course requirements**

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 both the professor and TA's names 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, as well as on Wikipedia. APA is always preferred. Do not use footnotes or endnotes.

Assignment Deadlines:

Assignments are due in-class on the date specified on the schedule. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day, including weekends, unless I've granted an extension at least 72 hours in advance and *in writing*. You must apply for extensions ahead of the due date; they are not automatic and are granted selectively. I don't like to penalize late assignments; however, since the purpose of this course is to prepare you for a career in writing, you need to know that deadlines are not a matter of negotiation. For these reasons, all assignments will be due on the date specified barring some catastrophic event. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as a future writer.

N.B.: NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE TERM ENDS.

How to Submit Assignments:

Assignments are due in hard copy format and via OWL unless otherwise specified and no later than 4:30 pm on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension, as explained in the previous section above. Note that assignments submitted after 4:30 p.m. (the end of the "business day") are graded as though they are received the day after they are submitted/uploaded.

If hard copies are required, please submit assignments either in class as specified or via the marked drop box located outside Lawson Hall 3270, making sure you include the professor and TA's names and your relevant class section number. However, do not:

- fax assignments
- e-mail assignments

Also, be aware that **you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.**

Attendance policies:

Attendance at class is required without exception. A ledger is circulated in each class requiring that students confirm their attendance in writing for tracking attendance and punctuality. Regular attendance is expected; however, simply signing the register in each class will not ensure a strong class work grade on its own. Regular and impassioned participation in class discussions and workshops is your best method to excel in this area of the grading rubric. Here is the attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).
- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68).

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: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' to follow.

NOTE: Absences from classes reserved for peer review workshops will not only affect your final attendance/participation grade but will have the incur the additional penalty of an immediate 10% deduction from any grade received on the final version of that same assignment. The peer review process is foundational to improving as a writer and is a core function of this course and the associated learning objectives and pedagogy. A failure to attend class on these dates not only undermines the ability for your assignment to receive feedback and proofreading services from your colleagues but also disrupts this process for the entire class.

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.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or English Studies, and English Studies requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). **All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's home Faculty.

Medical Accommodation Policy

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see:

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Note: In this course you will be required to submit an electronic copy of the final version of each of your essays to turnitin.com through your section's OWL home page.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Special Requests

Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing:

Please refer to the "[Student Information](#)" 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.

† Dr. Mike's Policy on Social Media & Wireless Devices:

Note that while the responsible use of smartphones, notebook computers, tablets, and other devices as learning tools in this course is certainly encouraged, and while I understand that smartphones in particular are increasingly integral to students' social experience at Western, it is expected that these technologies will be used appropriately in the context of the classroom. Please respect your professor (me) and peers (your friends and classmates) by refraining from SMS texting, BBMing, iMessaging, or using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, et al. other than during the designated break times. Students who are found to be distracted by and/or routinely engaged in social media, or found using wireless devices for personal business during lectures, peer review sessions, or in-class assignments will be deemed to be *mentally absent* and will have their attendance and participation marks affected to the same degree as someone who has failed to attend entirely. Please don't make this an issue. Please use discretion and common sense.