

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 399 01

WINTER 2018

COURSE TITLE: Detective Fiction TR 14:00, Room: ENG 230

Instructor: Dr. M. McGillivray

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Office hours: Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

Homepage/course website: See D2L.

**Course description:** This section of English 399 will be an introduction to the major periods and styles of detective fiction and to its most iconic writers and detectives, from Edgar Allan Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Ian Rankin, with particular attention to Conan Doyle's classic detective Sherlock Holmes, Dorothy L. Sayers's Golden Age detective Lord Peter Wimsey, the hard-boiled American detective in Raymond Chandler, and Ian Rankin's late 20th century Edinburgh detective John Rebus.

**Texts and readings:**

Only Ian Rankin's *Knots and Crosses* (Orion) needs to be purchased at the Bookstore. The bulk of the readings are provided as an online Coursepack in PDF files on the D2L site, and may also be purchased at the Bookstore in the form of a spiral-bound Coursepack (print-on-demand after the first few copies, ask at the information desk). The following are the novels we will be reading from the Coursepack:

Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet* (extract)

Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Whose Body?*

Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep*

In addition, we will read a selection of short detective fiction from the Coursepack. Most of the texts in the Coursepack have handy footnotes that I have added glossing unfamiliar terms, so please use them rather than random texts you may find on the Internet.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Reading tests 45%**

Four in-class tests will be based on assigned readings. The three top scores will be averaged for each student to determine the reading test total score, in other words they are worth 15% of the course grade each but the lowest score gets dropped. These multiple-choice tests will be easily passed by students who have attentively done the reading as required.

## **Book review 25%**

Each student will submit an approximately 750 word review of a recently-published detective novel. Further details will be provided on an assignment sheet to be distributed the fifth week of classes. Marking standards will be outlined on a rubric distributed at that time.

## **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination 30%**

The final examination will test your knowledge of the course readings and your ability to write persuasively about them. There will be a short-answer section and an essay section. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period, April 16 - 26.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+ and so on) for each day (not class) that the assignment is overdue.

There are no extra-credit assignments.

Students do not need to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

Review assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g. an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class) that the assignment is overdue.

Review assignments may be given directly to the instructor in hard copy on the due date or submitted via the D2L Dropbox that will be provided. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

## **Grading system:**

In this course, the review and the final exam will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

Undergraduate: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

All reading tests will receive a numerical grade out of 20, to be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	(18+/20)	A+	4.0
85 %	(17/20)	A	4.0
80 %	(16/20)	A-	3.7
75 %	(15/20)	B+	3.3
70 %	(14/20)	B-	2.7
65 %	(13/20)	C+	2.3
60 %	(12/20)	C-	1.7

55 %	(11/20)	D+	1.3
50 %	(10/20)	D	1.0
0 – 45 %	(0 - 9)	F	0

Final grade calculations will be done using the letter grades and corresponding four-point scale.

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

**Electronic devices:** Electronic devices are allowed in class for note-taking etc., but are strictly forbidden during reading tests and the final examination. Accessing a device during a test or examination will be treated as an instance of academic misconduct.

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboymd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboymd@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

**Student Accommodations:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf> .

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
  - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.