

English 1158.107, Crime Stories. Tues/Thurs 10:10-11:25, Goldwin Smith 158.

Prof. J. Robert Lennon • Goldwin Smith 361 • ph **255-7281** • netID **jrl24**

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:20-2:30, Wed by appointment only

In this class, we'll be reading, discussing, writing about, and perhaps even writing crime fiction. The texts will focus on the evolution of the traditional British and American crime story, with excursions outside the norm, and ending with some experiments with the form. Be aware that there is a lot of reading for this class. Most of the works we'll be studying are intended for a mass audience and feature fast-moving plots, so you're not likely to be bogged down, if you budget your time appropriately.

This class is part of the Knight writing program, which means we'll be concentrating not only on reading and appreciating literature, but on effectively forming our thoughts on the subject into words. The requirements for this class:

1. You must write **six 3-to-5-page essays**. **Three** of these will be developed through several stages of **revised drafts**. **Up to two** of them can be creative projects, but you must get my approval for these.
2. You must submit your work to at least one **in-class workshop**.
3. You must meet with me **at least once**, during office hours or at an appointed time.
4. You must **lead discussion** of the day's story at least once. This means preparing a short (5-10 minutes) lecture to get discussion moving.

You should hand in your first-draft essays on a regular basis—the point is to have a gradual evolution of your writing, and indeed your critical thinking, through repeated revisions, conferences, and class discussions. As the guidelines say, I will require that you polish three of your essays to perfection (or as close as possible!), and that you come discuss your writing with me one-on-one at least once, either by dropping by the office during regular hours or making an appointment. **The due dates for the three final drafts are 3/1, 4/5, and 5/10.** There will not be a final portfolio.

Workshops. For your workshops, you will distribute an essay to everyone in class, and we'll discuss its strengths and weaknesses. If your workshop is on a Tuesday, you must email the class your essay by **Friday at 5pm**. If your workshop is on a Thursday, you must email it by **Monday at 5pm**. Once everyone has signed up for one workshop, you may take as many additional slots as you like.

T	1/25	Introduction, class-leading signups, workshop signups
Th	1/27	Poe, "The Murders In The Rue Morgue" (handout)
T	2/1	Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band" (handout)
Th	2/3	Hammett, "The Gutting of Couffignal"
T	2/8	NOVEL: Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i>
Th	2/10	NOVEL: Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i>
T	2/15	Cain, "The Baby In The Icebox"
Th	2/17	Buck, "Ransom"
T	2/22	NOVEL: Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i>
Th	2/24	NOVEL: Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i>
T	3/1	Chesterton, "The Wrong Shape" (handout)
Th	3/3	Highsmith, "The Terrapin"
T	3/8	NOVEL: Stark, <i>The Sour Lemon Score</i>
Th	3/10	NOVEL: Stark, <i>The Sour Lemon Score</i>
T	3/15	O'Connor, "The Comforts of Home"
Th	3/17	Oates, "Do With Me What You Will"
*** SPRING BREAK no class 3/22 or 3/24 ***		
T	3/29	NOVEL: Sjowall and Wahloo, <i>The Laughing Policeman</i>
Th	3/31	NOVEL: Sjowall and Wahloo, <i>The Laughing Policeman</i>
T	4/5	King, "Quitters, Inc."
Th	4/7	Grafton, "The Parker Shotgun"
T	4/12	NOVEL: French, <i>The Likeness</i>
Th	4/14	NOVEL: French, <i>The Likeness</i>
T	4/19	Crumley, "Hot Springs"
Th	4/21	Munro, "Fits" (handout)
T	4/26	NOVEL: Mieville, <i>The City And The City</i>
Th	4/28	NOVEL: Mieville, <i>The City And The City</i>
T	5/3	final workshops
Th	5/5	final workshops

Textbooks are available at Buffalo Street Books, in the DeWitt Mall downtown. I will provide additional readings via pdf.

The Best American Mystery Stories of the Century, Hillerman and Penzler, 0618012710

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, Christie, 1579126278

The Big Sleep, Chandler, 0394758285

The Sour Lemon Score, Stark, 0226771105

The Laughing Policeman, Sjowall and Wahloo, 0307390500

The Likeness, French, 0143115626

The City and the City, Mieville, 034549752X