

ENGL 4038-001
Detection, Repentance, Sensation: Crime and the Novel in Nineteenth-Century
Britain
MWF: 10:00-10:50, Econ 16
Professor Rangarajan

Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:30

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In this course we will be studying the evolution of the detective fiction in nineteenth-century British literature, from the confessional novels of the Romantic era to the emergence of quintessential detective/hero in the late Victorian. Along the way we will consider how representations of crime are inflected by issues of urbanization, class, gender, colonialism, and industrialization. We will also be discussing the role of the crime and crime novels in British society. This is a reading-intensive course, with a minimum of 160 pages of reading a week, and students are expected to keep up with the reading, participate in class and online, and deliver two in-class presentations. Although novels (some very long) are the centerpiece of the course, we will also read a fair amount of primary nonfiction, theory, criticism, short stories, novellas, and drama. As a capstone course, many assignments will be directed towards the long (appx. 25 pages) research paper that will serve as the highlight of the semester. Authors include Doyle, Hogg, Collins, Dickens, and Shelley.

Reading List (subject to change):

Braddon, Mary Elizabeth *Lady Audley's Secret* (Oxford)

Collins, Wilkie *The Woman in White* (Broadview)

Dickens, Charles *Oliver Twist* (Norton)

Godwin, William *Things as They Are; or, the Adventures of Caleb Williams* (Broadview)

Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (Broadview)

Additional reading found on ereserves

Course Schedule (subject to change):

1/18: Introduction

1/20: Foucault, "The Body of the Condemned" from *Discipline and Punish**; Calquhoun, from *A Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis**;

1/23: *Caleb Williams* (55-145)

1/25: *CW* (146-226)

1/27 *CW* (227-273)

1/30: library visit (E303); *CW* (274-342)

2/1: *CW* (343-407)

2/3: (408-Conclusion, plus 435-443)

2/6: *CW*, concluding discussion; Bentham, from *The Panopticon**

2/8: *Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (49-95)

2/10: **NO CLASS (ELN Conference)**; *PMCJS* (96-142)

2/13: *PMCJS* (143-189)

2/15: *PMCJS* (190-Conclusion)

2/17: *PMCS*, concluding discussion; Peter Brooks, from *Troubling Confessions**

2/20: Shelley, *The Cenci**; Acts I-II

2/22: *The Cenci*, Acts III-V

2/24: *The Cenci*, concluding discussion; de Quincey, "On Murder, Considered as One of the Fine Arts"*

2/27: *Woman in White* (49-148)

2/29: *WW* (148-234)

3/2: *WW* (234-320)

3/5: *WW* (321-492)

3/7: *WW* (492-589)

3/9: *WW* (590-Conclusion)

Close-reading exercise DUE

3/12: *Lady Audley's Secret* (I-XI)

3/14: *LAS* (XI-Book II; Chapt. IV)

3/16: *LAS* (XII-Book III; Chapt. III)

3/19: *LAS* (V-XI)

3/21: *LAS* (IV- Conclusion)

3/23: *LAS*, concluding discussion; from *Criminals, Idiots, Women, and Minors**

Literature Review DUE

3/26-3/30: **Spring Break**

4/2: *Oliver Twist* (I-XII)

4/4: *OT* (XIII-XXIII)

4/6: *OT* (XXIV-XXXIV)

Prospectus DUE

4/9: *OT* (XXXV-XLIV)

4/11: *OT* (XLV-End)

4/13: *OT*, concluding discussion; Mayhew, from *London Labour, London Poor**;

4/16: Wilde, *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime**

4/18: Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet**

4/20: Anne Katherine Green, *That Affair Next Door**

4/23: Screening, *Sherlock Holmes*

4/25: Screening *Sherlock Holmes*

4/27: Workshops

4/30: Workshops

5/2: Workshops

5/4: Conclusion

Research Paper DUE

*material on reserves

Course Requirements

Papers

As a capstone course, this writing assignments for this class will focus around the development of a 25 page research paper. This means you will produce an extended analysis of a topic or book that will incorporate secondary research into both nineteenth-century and contemporary criticism. Aside from the short paper accompanying your presentation (see below), all other writing assignments are constructed to help you work towards the final paper.

While I will not read completed drafts of any assignment I will be happy to read small portions of your papers and discuss them with you at any time. All papers will be graded for both content and style (all papers should follow standard MLA formatting), so I recommend you pick up one of the many style manuals available in the bookstore. Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference* is a good one. You are allowed **one** *three-day* extension on the (short) assignment of your choice, no explanations necessary. Aside from this one-time extension, **no late papers will be accepted, and the final research paper cannot be turned in late.** Papers are due **in class** and unless previously approved by me, papers slipped in my mailbox (101 Hellems), or under my office door will not be accepted.

As this is an upper-division class, you are expected to have a strong background in analytical essay writing. If you have problems, please come to my office hours.

I expect students to be familiar with the definition of plagiarism (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/acadinteg.html>). Plagiarism constitutes a failing grade **in the course**.

Oral Presentations

Each student is responsible for two presentations. The first is a 7-10 minute presentation on the assigned reading (a separate handout will be made available), and the second is a presentation on your work in progress. We will be workshoping the final papers for the class in small groups, and you will be required to present portions of your paper to your classmates for peer review and comments.

Books

To minimize confusion, students are urged to by the indicated editions of the texts. This is particularly important in this course as many of the editions I've selected include valuable secondary material that will help you with your presentations and papers. If you have different editions you are responsible for aligning your reading to the assigned sections of text.

Participation

This class depends on lively discussion and the free exchange of ideas. Students are expected to be active, engaged members of the class. You will be graded for participation in a variety of ways, including presentations, classroom discussions, online posting, and smaller written assignments that demonstrate your engagement with the course material. While formal attendance will not be taken, continuous or excessive tardiness, inappropriate classroom behavior, or repeatedly coming to class unprepared and without assigned materials will be taken as a sign of unwillingness to participate in the class. More than **five** unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

Part of your participation grade will come from comments, questions, and ideas you post online. We will be using D2L as our medium for message and topic postings. You will need to go to <https://learn.colorado.edu> to access the D2L course.

If you are absent, you are responsible for any work assigned that day, and it is your responsibility to get any handouts, assignments, and class information from a fellow student. *In-class writing assignments cannot be made up.* As a general rule, all electronic devices need to be switched off during class. If you have a problem speaking in public, please see me.

Email

You are welcome to email me with questions and ideas, but be aware that it will take me at least twenty-four hours to respond to an email unless there is a dire emergency. I am also generally not available on email during weekends. Thus, last-minute emails are a gamble. I will also send out emails frequently, and expect students to check their mail regularly. I recommend office hours for all non-emergency discussions.

Grades

Research paper: 45%

Participation: 30% *(includes presentations, on-line, and in-class participation)

Other assignments (bibliography, prospectus, etc.): 25%