MASTER SYLLABUS

ENGL 349 – Classic Detective Fiction

CIP Code: 230101

Prepared By: Emily Hamilton-Honey
September 2016
Revised By: Emily Hamilton-Honey
July 2019
A. **TITLE:** Classic Detective Fiction

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 349

C. **CREDIT HOURS:**
   
   3 Credit Hours  
   3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week

   Course Length: 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring

G. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** In this course students become familiar with the genre of detective fiction from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present day. Course content and time periods may vary by semester. Students learn literary elements of detective fiction, examine the development of the detective as a literary figure and detective fiction as a genre, and analyze depictions of the law and legal system. Course may include, but is not limited to, British and American detective fiction by Poe, Collins, Conan Doyle, Chesterton, Sayers, Hammett, Christie, Chandler, MacDonald, James, Rendell, Cross, Elizabeth Peters, Ellis Peters, Perry, George, and King.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
   a. Pre-requisite(s): ENGL 101: Expository Writing AND one lower-level literature course AND 45 credit hours earned with a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
   b. Co-requisite(s): none

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

   By the end of this course, students will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>PSLO</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>ISLO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a.</strong> Apply terms common to the humanities.</td>
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<td>1. Communication Skills (O or W)</td>
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<td><strong>b.</strong> Analyze the stylistic differences employed by the course authors.</td>
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<td>2. Critical Thinking (CA)</td>
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<td><strong>c.</strong> Argue for specific interpretations of course materials.</td>
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<td>2. Critical Thinking (CA)</td>
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<td><strong>d.</strong> Evaluate historical and sociological events as they are reflected in and impact the development of detective fiction.</td>
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<td>2. Critical Thinking (IA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
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| 1      | Communication Skills  
Oral [O], Written [W] |
| 2      | Critical Thinking  
Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS] |
| 3      | Foundational Skills  
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR] |
| 4      | Social Responsibility  
Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T] |
| 5      | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:  
Yes __X__  No ______
- Creative Works/Senior Project
- Research

K. TEXTS:
(Representative texts; texts chosen by instructor)


**L. REFERENCES:**
(Representative references; references chosen by instructor)


**M. EQUIPMENT:** Technology-enhanced classroom.

**N. GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS**
- Quizzes
P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:** Which genres are covered depends on the time period and authors selected for an individual semester.

I. Early detective fiction
   A. Foundational elements of the mystery
   B. Logic and reasoning
   C. The nature of evidence and critique of police forces
   D. Social order: class differences and detectives
   E. Gentlemen detectives: Dupin, Holmes, Wimsey, Poirot

II. Hard-boiled detective fiction
   A. Cities and urban decay
   B. Working-class private eyes
   C. “Fallen” women
   D. e. g., Sam Spade, Lew Archer, Phillip Marlowe

III. The Police Procedural
   A. New technologies and methods of crime solving
   B. Emphasizes witness interviews, forensics, profiling
   C. e. g., Inspector Lynley, Inspector Wexford, Kate Martinelli

IV. Historical detective fiction
   A. Mysteries set in a particular time period, but not written in that time period.
   B. Mysteries in which a modern detective investigates a crime from the past.
   C. e. g., Charlotte and Thomas Pitt, Brother Cadfael, Mary Russell

V. Female detectives
   A. How are female detectives portrayed differently (or are they?) than male?
   B. Female detectives really emerge (not coincidentally) after the women’s movements of the ‘60s and ‘70s.
   C. e. g., Kate Fansler, Amelia Peabody, Mary Russell, Kate Martinelli, Kate Delafield.

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** None.