

ENGLISH 21: DETECTIVE FICTION FALL 2017
BBC 004 TTH 13:30-14:45 G. E. AREA C2
JOHN ENGELL, FACULTY INSTRUCTOR FO 228: OFFICE HOURS: TH 10:30-12:00
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LIZ ROSSER, GRADUATE ASSISTANT FO 228: OFFICE HOURS: T 11:00-12:00
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TEXTS:

Dashiell Hammett. THE MALTESE FALCON. Vintage Crime/Black Lizard.
Raymond Chandler. THE LONG GOODBYE. Vintage Crime/Black Lizard.
Ross Macdonald. THE GALTON CASE. Vintage Crime/Black Lizard.
Sue Grafton. I IS FOR INNOCENT. St. Martin's Paperbacks.
Walter Mosley. SIX EASY PIECES. Washington Square Press.
We'll read and discuss these five books in the order in which they are listed above.
All books are available on Amazon and other online sites. ORDER TODAY!!!!

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

6 ESSAY TESTS 1 ANALYTIC PAPER

See the timeline for dates when tests will be administered and the paper is due.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this class you will read, discuss, and write about five major works of California detective fiction written between 1929 and the early 20th century. The first four books are novels; the fifth is a collection of related short stories.

We will also discuss the authors and the historical and cultural contexts of these works of fiction.

Though detective fiction is often called "popular" literature, all five of the writers we'll study are masters of craft, thereby elevating their work.

COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and nature of the subject.
4. Articulate relations among culture, history, and texts.

FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AREA C2 (LETTERS) STUDENTS SHALL BE ABLE TO:

1. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.
2. Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.
3. Write clearly and effectively.

In addition, students will examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination; understand the historical and cultural contexts in which these works were created; and recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in these works, thus incorporating issues of diversity.

EVERY DEPARTMENT AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OBJECTIVE IS INCORPORATED INTO EVERY READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT.

COURSE SCHEDULE: {NOTE: ALL WRITING—TESTS AND PAPER—WILL BE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER.]
AUGUST

TH 24 Introduction: the syllabus, reading, writing; literary terms

T 29 Introduction: the history of detective fiction; literary terms

TH 31 Introduction: California Detective Fiction;

SHORT ESSAY TEST #1: Literary terms

FINISH READING EACH NOVEL BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND DAY OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT NOVEL!!!!!!!!!!!!

SEPTEMBER

T 5 THE MALTESE FALCON: the author/the narrative type and style

TH 7 THE MALTESE FALCON: the setting/the murders

T 12 THE MALTESE FALCON: the detective

TH 14 THE MALTESE FALCON: the other characters

T 19 THE MALTESE FALCON: the resolution

SHORT ESSAY TEST #2: THE MALTESE FALCON

TH 21 THE LONG GOODBYE: the author/the narrative type and style

T 26 THE LONG GOODBYE: the setting/the murders

TH 28 THE LONG GOODBYE: the detective

OCTOBER

T 3 THE LONG GOODBYE: the other characters

TH 5 THE LONG GOODBYE: the resolution

SHORT ESSAY TEST #3: THE LONG GOODBYE

T 10 THE GALTON CASE: the author/the narrative type and style

TH 12 THE GALTON CASE: the setting/the murders

T 17 THE GALTON CASE: the detective

TH 19 THE GALTON CASE: the other characters

T 24 THE GALTON CASE: the resolution

SHORT ESSAY TEST #4: THE GALTON CASE

TH 26 I IS FOR INNOCENT: the author/the narrative type and style

T 31 I IS FOR INNOCENT: the setting/the murders

NOVEMBER

TH 2 I IS FOR INNOCENT: the detective

T 7 I IS FOR INNOCENT: the other characters

TH 9 I IS FOR INNOCENT: the resolution

SHORT ESSAY TEST #5: I IS FOR INNOCENT

T 14 SIX EASY PIECES: the author/ the narrative type and style

TH 16 SIX EASY PIECES: the settings/the murders

T 21 SIX EASY PIECES: the detective

T 28 SIX EASY PIECES: the other characters

TH 30 SIX EASY PIECES: the resolutions

SHORT ESSAY TEST #6: SIX EASY PIECES

DECEMBER

T 5 OUT-OF-CLASS ESSAY DUE; NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED

TH 7 OVERVIEW, AND A 'LONG GOODBYE'