

North Hennepin Community College

ENGL 2950: Mystery and Detective Fiction

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course will introduce students to mystery and detective fiction as a literary genre and as popular literature, examining the conventions of suspense writing, possibly including hook, twist, red herring, back story, sub-plot, procedural, clues, and the ethical concerns of investigative methods and civic life. Discussion of various sub-genre styles will engage students in critical thinking applied to historical era, culturally diverse contexts, and gender roles in mystery writing.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/27/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Within the genre, students will read short stories and novels, watch films, and apply critical thinking to the ethics in the fictional depiction of law enforcement, civic life, cultural diversity, historical contexts, and gender roles in mystery writing. Students will be required to produce written responses.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Analyze how the various elements of literary fiction work in mystery and detective writing to create suspense. (MnTC G2, comps a, c; MnTC G6, comps a, b, c, e; Program goal 1, 2a)
2. Explore common conventions of mystery writing. (MnTC 6, comps a, b, c; Program Goal 1, 2a)
3. Examine the history of mystery and detective fiction as well as sub-genres. (MnTC G2, comps a, c; MnTC g6, comps. a, b; Program Goal 1)
4. Apply critical thinking to historical and diverse cultural contexts, including how historical era affects the plot; how roles of gender and sexual orientation work in the texts; what mystical or supernatural aspects impact the storyline; how diverse cultures shape the story. (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC G6, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC G9, comps. a, b, c; Program Goal 2a, 3a, 4)
5. Carefully and thoughtfully analyze mystery and detective literature in regard to ethical concerns. (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC 9, comps. a, b, c; Program Goal 3a, 4)
6. Reflect, with depth, on civic life and responsibility in the fictional depiction of crime and law enforcement. . (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC 9, comps. a, b, c; Program Goal 3a)
7. Critique film adaptations of mystery and detective novels. (MnTC G6, comps. a, b, c; Program Goal 1, 2b)
8. Relate the background of mystery and detective authors to their craft. (MnTC G6, comps. a, b, c, e; Program Goal 1, 2b)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted