**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

**ENGLISH 1355 Film and Literature:**

**DETECTIVE FICTION ON FILM**

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**FALL 2022**

**Instructor**: Dr. Dwayne C. Coleman **CRN**: 26025

**Office**: Irby 317H **Time**: TR 9:25am-10:40am

**Virtual Office Hours**: MWF 10:00am-noon **Place**: Irby 312

(or by appointment; video conferencing can be arranged)

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**Introduction:** Welcome to Film and Literature: Detective Fiction on Film. In this class, we’ll look at a selection of famous detective novels and their film adaptations, somewhat historical in nature, considering what makes detective fiction in its various forms compelling and how the genre translates to motion picture presentations. Among other elements, detective fiction often offers interesting protagonists (the detectives), artful narrative technique, action, suspense, intellectual stimulation, explorations of human nature, and social commentary. It enhances our enjoyment of the stories if we can understand how the genre manages to achieve these effects. These elements capture our imagination and fuel a desire to see them portrayed in movies and television, so we should also try to analyze the way the techniques and challenges that come with doing so. Along the way, we will also take some time to explore how the genre has broadened and diversified in more recent years.

**Course Goals/ Objectives:** This course is part of the Critical Inquiry component of the Lower-Division Core. Critical Inquiry courses promote the ability to analyze new problems and situations to formulate informed opinions and conclusions. For more information, go to http://uca.edu/core.

In a Lower Division Critical Inquiry course, each student will pursue a number of goals, which include the following:

1. Students will learn and utilize critical concepts in order to view and analyze films beyond the level of plot and dialogue.

2. Students will read texts and view films actively and closely, so that they will recognize and analyze ways in which films and texts construct and present meanings and cultural viewpoints.

3. Students will recognize and analyze the ways in which films and literary texts interact, complement, or contradict one another when they share a common subject matter.

4. Students will learn to analyze the themes and ideas and relate them to the relevant cultural contexts using textual or visual evidence, and then they will reflectively reach and persuasively support responses and interpretations in focused discussions and writing assignments. **Writing will be an important part of this class, and the ability to write well in Standard Academic English is vital to success in the course.**

**Required Texts and Films: Please purchase the texts. We will view the films in class, but I will provide the Amazon links should you desire to purchase or rent the films and view them again for your own study.**

**Texts:**

Doyle, Arthur Conan, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Penguin Classics/ISBN 9780140437867

Christie, Agatha. *Murder on the Orient Express*. Harper Collins/ISBN 9780062073495

Hammett, Dashiell, *The Maltese Falcon*, Vintage Crime/ISBN 9780679722649

Mosley, Walter, *Devil in a Blue Dress (30th Anniversary Edition)*, Washington Square/ISBN 9781982150341

**Films:**

*Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1988, directed by Brian Mills, starring Jeremy Brett—will be placed on course reserve at Torreyson Library

*Murder on the Orient Express,* 1974, directed by Sidney Lumet, starring Albert Finney [Watch Murder on the Orient Express | Prime Video (amazon.com)](https://www.amazon.com/Murder-Orient-Express-Albert-Finney/dp/B076KHB4LX/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1N86WP960DXBO&keywords=murder+on+the+orient+express&qid=1661285053&s=instant-video&sprefix=murder%2Cinstant-video%2C402&sr=1-2)

*The Maltese Falcon*, 1941, directed by John Huston, starring Humphrey Bogart, [Watch The Maltese Falcon (1941) | Prime Video (amazon.com)](https://www.amazon.com/Maltese-Falcon-Humphrey-Bogart/dp/B003DCPGPQ/ref=sr_1_1?crid=Y1RXPB4C56PT&keywords=the+maltese+falcon&qid=1661285163&s=instant-video&sprefix=the+maltese%2Cinstant-video%2C113&sr=1-1)

*Devil in a Blue Dress*, 1995, directed by Carl Franklin, starring Denzel Washington, [Watch Devil In A Blue Dress | Prime Video (amazon.com)](https://www.amazon.com/Devil-Blue-Dress-Denzel-Washington/dp/B019AJO9UI/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3RR0PDUZIE3DZ&keywords=devil+in+a+blue+dress&qid=1661285372&s=instant-video&sprefix=devil+%2Cinstant-video%2C97&sr=1-1)

Crime fiction very often deals with violence, prejudice, trauma, and other difficult topics, but please understand that we will approach these with careful consideration and respect for everyone’s lived experiences. I invite you to have conversations with me about these topics as well. Please also review the English department’s statement on text and topic selection [Philosophy of Text and Topic Selection — English (uca.edu)](https://uca.edu/english/philosophy-of-text-and-topic-selection/).

**Class Requirements:**

You are expected to perform the following tasks:

1. Read all assigned pages and view all of the films. These pages will be announced in class, typically near the conclusion of the period. You will be held responsible for knowing the entirety of these texts and movies on exams and quizzes whether we discuss them in their entirety or not. Another disclaimer—we will do a great deal of reading in this class, and if you’re not an avid reader, you may struggle to keep up.

2. Attend every class and bring the appropriate texts **every class day (except when exams prohibit the use of books)** and use them to participate in class activities. Students who do not bring their text will be counted absent.

3. Retain information from class lectures and discussions. All such material may appear as items on exams.

4. Prepare for in-class or take-home writings or timed quizzes, given as shown in the schedule of readings and assignments. These assignments will be based on the readings or film viewings and are designed to measure your engagement with the course and to practice your skills in explicating literary works. This task is best accomplished, of course, by reading and carefully watching the movies.

5. Take and pass four exams of varying formats, including a comprehensive final exam.

**Attendance and Class Conduct Policy:**

And now the rules.

* Please read these policies carefully and familiarize yourself with them. You will get the most out of this class—and will help me do my job better—if you observe some ground rules:

1. All students are expected to know and comply with university policy related to Covid-19. For information and resources, see <https://uca.edu/coronavirus/>.
2. Each of us will take responsibility for ourselves.
3. Every student must fill the same set of requirements for this class.
4. You will be honest. You will treat all communications associated with the class as though they are occurring within a real classroom and behave accordingly.
5. You will attend the class and be ready and willing to participate in all synchronous and asynchronous class activities.
6. You will complete all assignments on time.
7. You will be treated as a student, not as a customer.
8. You will take time to study, carefully prepare assignments, and use other resources if needed, regardless of your schedule or other responsibilities. I have taken care not to overload you, but you will still have to work time for this course into your daily schedule.
9. **You will take the initiative in working on the assignments for this course; you will need to be a self-starter.**
10. In short, you will conduct yourself as a university scholar, with integrity and professionalism.

**Attendance and class conduct:**

* We will maintain standards and deadlines for our attendance and performance in the course. Regular attendance in-person is required. Assignments need to be turned in by the announced due dates, and grades with rigor will be assigned. This adjustment may come as a shock to some after so many concessions were made during the pandemic, but in order for your grade in this course to mean something, we must have real, definite criteria for assessing your performance on assignments. However, Covid-19 is still with us as a health threat, and we may still need to make some adjustments along the way. All students are expected to comply with the University policy regarding Covid-19 (see <https://uca.edu/coronavirus/>).
* If you intend to make a premium grade (A or B), you should attend class as frequently as possible, preferably every day, and perform tasks to stay engaged with the course. Students who accumulate more than six (6) unexcused absences will be required to consult with me about their attendance and their commitment to complete the course. Students with more than eight (8) unexcused absences will be advised to drop the course. Documentation of the reason for absence must be presented to me in order for an absence to be excused.
* Attendance includes being prepared for class. **Therefore, students who do not bring the appropriate text to class and use it or view the assigned film by class time will be counted absent.**
* Students who are quarantined for testing positive for Covid-19 may have their attendance requirements adjusted and may rejoin in-person attendance once healthcare professionals deem it to be safe. Documentation must be presented to me in order for this adjustment to be made.
* Class meetings will begin and end at the agreed upon time. They will be in the classroom announced in the course schedule unless otherwise advised.
* You should do your best to keep up with the readings. **Please notify me of any planned gaps in your engagement with the course in advance.**  **If some factor has caused you to miss a deadline or due date in the course, please contact me as soon as possible and arrange to make up the uncompleted work. Please let me know if they are any factors potentially effecting your completion of the course as soon as possible. Communication is crucially important on this issue.**
* **Communication:** The best way to communicate with me will be my UCA email address dcoleman@uca.edu, and you need to use your UCA account for issues related to this class. Please do not send me messages through Blackboard as it is too hard to sift them out from the boatload of messages that Blackboard generates for instructors. If you need to speak to me, I will hold office hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00am-noon. I will be in my office, but please try to make an appointment if you need to see me in person. You may also reach me by my office phone 501-450-3488 or make an appointment for a Zoom meeting.
* This class runs from Thursday, August 25 to Tuesday, December 13 (final exam day). Be careful to keep these dates in mind when making any plans involving holiday travel or other occasions that will affect your completion of the course. Make sure family and friends know about the policy if they’re making travel arrangements or other plans for you.
* Last, but not least, please make note of this drop date for this semester: **Wednesday, November 16, 2022**—Last day to drop with a grade of W. After that day, only A, B, C, D, or F will be awarded.
* Please do not bring food into the classroom. Drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) are permitted, but you are asked to clean up any spills yourself.
* **If we are required to pivot to remote instruction for a limited time**, all of the above conditions will remain except in-person class attendance will be suspended for the defined duration. All classroom discussion and lecture will be conducted on Zoom, and you will only be counted absent if you don’t attend synchronously. If socially distanced in-person attendance is allowed, classes will be divided into groups attending in-person on different class days such that the appropriate distancing can be maintained in the given classroom.
* **If we are required to pivot to remote instruction at some point for the remainder of the semester**, most classroom discussion and lecture will be conducted on Zoom, and you will only be counted absent if you don’t attend synchronously on designated synchronous days. In order to avoid “Zoom fatigue,” a limited number of days (perhaps once every two weeks) may be converted to asynchronous class activities that must be completed and submitted before the end of the class day. These activities will count for points in the “Class Exercises” category of assignments.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Exam one 200 points

Exam two 200 points

Exam three 200 points

Quizzes 4 X 50 points = 200 points

One final exam 200 points

**And so, grading is on the following scale:**  A 1000-895 points

B 894-795

C 794-695

D 694-595

F 594 and under

**The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS):** The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) at 450-3613.

**Academic Honesty and Policies:**

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

For this class, any discovered instances of cheating or plagiarism WILL result in a ZERO for the assignment and will likely result in failure of the course. Plagiarism includes piecing together phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas from sources without documentation as well as submitting work that has been composed wholly or in part by someone else. The plagiarized work will also be kept on file in the English Department, and the student may be subject to other sanctions and processes pending the revision of the University’s policy on cheating.

**Sexual Harassment Policy and Title IX disclosure:** Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policies concerning sexual harassment in the current UCA *Student Handbook*.

In furtherance of its core values— academic vitality, integrity, and diversity—UCA is dedicated to promoting a campus community free from discrimination. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 requires all educational institutions to address gender-based discrimination on campus, and UCA implements these Federal requirements through a fair, consistent, and appropriate process of investigation and adjudication. Please see UCA’s Title IX website (<https://uca.edu/titleix/>) for the university’s policy, relevant forms, training opportunities, and related information.

**Emergency Procedures:** An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS and Building Emergency Plan (BEP) documents for most buildings on campus are available at <https://uca.edu/go/bep-library>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

**Schedule of Assignments**

**Fall 2022**

| **Tuesday** | **Thursday** |
| --- | --- |
|  | **August 25**  Organization and Introduction |
| **August 30**  **Discussion:** Basic Cinematic Elements and How to Annotate a Film  **Read:** Handout “Basic Cinematic Elements” in Handouts folder on Blackboard | **September 1**  **Discussion:** Sherlock Holmes and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*  **Read:** chapters 1-5, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*  **In Class: Quiz #1--“Basic Cinematic Elements and reading in *Hound*** |
| **September 6**  **Discussion:** Sherlock Holmes and *The Hound*  **Read:** chapters 6-10, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* | **September 8**  **Discussion:** Sherlock Holmes and *The Hound*  **Read:** chapters 11-16, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* |
| **September 13**  **In Class: View** *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1988 | **September 15**  **In Class: View** *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1988  **Assigned: Essay Exam One due by Sept. 22 (end of the day)** |
| **September 20**  **Discussion:** Hercule Poirot and *Murder on the Orient Express*  **Read:** Part One, chapters 1-6, *Murder on the Orient Express* | **September 22**  **Discussion:** Poirot and *Murder*  **Read:** Part One, chs 7-8 and Part Two, chs. 1-6, *Murder on the Orient Express*  **Due: Essay Exam One due by the end of the day** |
| **September 27**  **Discussion:** Poirot and *Murder*  **Read:** Part Two, chs 7-14, *Murder on the Orient Express* | **September 29**  **Discussion:** Poirot and *Murder*  **Read:** Part Two, ch. 15, and Part Three, chs. 1-5, *Murder on the Orient Express* |
| **October 4**  **Discussion:** Poirot and *Murder*  **Read:** Part Three, chs. 6-9 (end), *Murder on the Orient Express*  **In Class: Reading Quiz #2** | **October 6**  **In Class: View** *Murder on the Orient Express* |
| **October 11**  **In Class: View** *Murder on the Orient Express*, 1974 | **October 13**  **In Class: View** *Murder on the Orient Express* |
| **October 18**  **In Class: Essay Exam Two** | **October 20**  **Fall Break—NO CLASS** |
| **October 25**  **Discussion:** Hammett and Hardboiled Detective Fiction  **Read:** chs. 1-6, *The Maltese Falcon* | **October 27**  **Discussion:** Hammett and Hardboiled Detective Fiction  **Read:** chs. 7-12, *The Maltese Falcon*  **In Class: Reading Quiz #3** |
| **November 1**  **Discussion:** Hammett and Hardboiled Detective Fiction  **Read:** chs. 13-17, *The Maltese Falcon* | **November 3**  **Discussion:** Hammett and Hardboiled Detective Fiction  **Read:** chs. 18-20 (end), *The Maltese Falcon* |
| **November 8**  **In Class: View** *The Maltese Falcon* | **November 10**  **In Class: View** *The Maltese Falcon*  **Assigned: Essay Exam Three due by Nov. 17 (end of the day)** |
| **November 15**  **Discussion:** Easy Rawlings and African-American *noir*  **Read:** chs. 1-8, *Devil in a Blue Dress* | **November 17**  **Discussion:** Easy Rawlings  **Read:** chs. 9-17, *Devil in a Blue Dress*  **Due: Essay Exam Three due by the end of the day** |
| **November 22**  **Discussion:** Easy Rawlings  **Read:** chs. 18-25, *Devil in a Blue Dress* | **November 24**  **Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS** |
| **November 29**  **Discussion:** Easy Rawlings  **Read:** chs. 18-25, *Devil in a Blue Dress*  **In Class: Quiz #4—two options** | **December 1**  **In Class: View** *Devil in a Blue Dress* |
| **December 6**  **In Class: View** *Devil in a Blue Dress* | **December 8**  **In Class:** Concluding Discussion “Variation/Evolution/Representation/Aesthetics  **Assigned: Final Essay Exam due by Dec. 13 (end of the day)** |
| **December 13**  **Final Essay Exam due by the end of the day** | **December 15** |