

GS/EN 6158 03
Studies in World Literature: Detective Fiction

Prof. Marie-Christine Leps
mcleps@yorku.ca

This course focuses on World Detective Fiction as its point of departure (Auerbach's *Ansatzpunkt*) for globalized reading (Cooppan). Considering the genre as world literature re-writes the usual narrative of its emergence and development. Edgar Allan Poe's famous Dupin stories, written in nineteenth-century US, will be studied not only in conjunction with Émile Gaboriau's Lecoq stories, but also with eighteenth-century Chinese narratives recounting the celebrated cases of seventh-century magistrate, Judge Dee (*Dee Goong An*), as well as tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*. The English Holmes and Watson team will be read transnationally, through various Indian, Chinese, and US American versions. Considering recent adaptations in television series (*Sherlock* and *Elementary*) will allow us to see how this model has circulated and been adapted in different national, political, and cultural contexts, and to what ends. In other words, the detective novel will not be studied as a thing in itself, but as an epistemological mode and a changing practice contributing to various cultures.

To discern the political and economic dimensions of crime narratives, we will examine the historical correlations between crime facts and fictions, as reported in the world press. We will also compare the narrative science of detection to an emerging criminology (with Cesare Lombroso and Gabriel Tarde), to see how they variously produced different truths about criminals. Our discursive investigations of the Ripper murders will include police and coroner's reports, post-mortem reports, parliamentary debates, and inquest testimony. Our investigations of the pressures of genre will extend to the "golden age" fiction of the sole investigator of multiple suspects (Miss Marple in novel and film, along with her nineteenth-century U.S. predecessor, Amelia Butterworth), and the Detection Club's Fair Play Rules.

Throughout our investigations, gender, race, sexuality, and class will be foregrounded, as well as the interrelations among detective fiction, nationalism, and imperialism.

Novels and stories

Auster, Paul. *City of Glass*. Penguin, 1985.

Borges, Jorge Luis. "Death and the Compass"
<http://art3idea.psu.edu/metalepsis/texts/death-compass.pdf>
"The Thousand and One Nights," *Seven Nights*. New Directions, 1980, pp.42-57.

Cheng, Xiaoqing. "The Ghost in the Villa" (1947), in Timothy Wong, trans. *Stories for Saturday: Twentieth-Century Chinese Popular Fiction*. U Hawaii P, 2003. [made available in class]

Christie, Agatha. *A Murder is Announced* (1950). William Morrow Paperbacks, 2011; film version with Geraldine McEwan, 2005.

Dee Goong An. Trans. Robert Van Gulik, 1949. Dover, 1976

Doherty, Robert. *Elementary*, Series 1, episode 1 “pilot.”

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) [any unabridged edition, also available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/244/244-h/244-h.htm>]

“The Man with the Twisted Lip,” in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1891) [any unabridged edition, also available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/48320/48320-h/48320-h.htm#vi>]

“The Adventure of the Speckled Band” (1892)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1661/1661-h/1661-h.htm#chap08>

“The Adventure of The Second Stain” (1904)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/108/108-h/108-h.htm#chap13>

“The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge” (1908)

Faye, Lyndsay. *Dust and Shadow: An Account of the Ripper Killings by Dr. John H. Watson*. Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Fisher, Rudolph, “John Archer’s Nose,” (1925) in *The City of Refuge*. University of Missouri Press, 1987.

Gaboriau, Émile. *The Lerouge Case* (1865).

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3802/3802-h/3802-h.htm>

Green, Ann Katherine *That Affair Next Door* (1897)

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/70a5/382c9e349644e44e3782fe090cec75feb070.pdf>

Moffat, Steven. “A Study in Pink” (2010), *Sherlock*, Series 1 Episode 1.

Poe, Edgar Allan. “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841)

“The Mystery of Marie Rogêt” (1842-1843)

“The Purloined Letter” (1844) [any unabridged edition; also available at:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/25525/25525-h/25525-h.htm>

“The Thousand-and-Second Tale of Sheherazade” (1845)

https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2148/2148-h/2148-h.htm#link2H_4_0001

Pirkis, Louisa. *The Experiences of Loveday Brooke, Lady Detective* (1893-1894),

“The Murder at Troyte’s Hill” (March 1883, *The Ludgate Magazine*)

<https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/pirkis/brooke/brooke.html#II>

Satyajit, Ray. "Danger in Darjeeling" (1965) *The Complete Adventures of Feluda* Vol.1
"Feluda in London" (1989), *The Complete Adventures of Feluda* Vol.2. Penguin, 2015.

Sun Liaohong, "The Sunglasses Society" (1924), in Timothy Wong, trans. *Stories for Saturday: Twentieth-Century Chinese Popular Fiction*. U Hawaii P, 2003.

Beginning, and "The Three Apples" in *One Thousand and One Nights*.
http://khanlearning.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/8/8/13884014/the_tale_of_the_three_apples.pdf

The Three Princes of Serendip
<https://multoghost.wordpress.com/2018/05/03/the-three-princes-of-serendip-and-the-one-eyed-camel/>

Voltaire, *Zadig or the Book of Fate: an Oriental Tale*

Criminological Texts

Lombroso Cesare, selections from *Criminal Man* (1876)
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/29895/29895-h/29895-h.htm>

Tarde, Gabriel, selections from *Penal Philosophy* (1890)
<https://archive.org/details/penalphilosophy00tard>

World Press Reports on Ripper Murders

Available at www.casebook.org

Essays

Essays by C. Belsey, D. Damrosch, M. B. Harris-Peyton, R. Hennesy and R. Mohan, M. Holquist, F. Moretti, C.J. Rzepka, T. Todorov, W. Yan, and others.

Evaluation

Two short responses and expositions in class: 10% each;
Fifteen-minute class presentation: 15%; essay version: 25%;
Final research paper: 40%