

# Mystery and Detective Fiction Section 80

## ENGL 21

Spring 2024 3 Unit(s) 01/24/2024 to 05/13/2024 Modified 01/23/2024

### Course Description and Requisites

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Examines mystery or detective fiction from its inception in the 19th century and follow it across the globe as the genre has been taken on and developed by a variety of cultures.

GE Area(s): C2. Humanities

Letter Graded

### \* Classroom Protocols

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#### Extension Policy

I will grant extensions (no questions asked) for the following assignments. Extensions can be requested at any point **EXCEPT** not on the day that the assignment is due:

Essay # 1 (Close Reading)

Essay # 2 (Final Paper)

All other assignments must be submitted by the times listed on this syllabus and Canvas.

**Peer Review Workshops:** The revision process is central to this class, so you will be responsible for writing a rough draft for each major essay. While only the final draft will be graded, not completing a rough draft and participating in peer review workshops will result in a deduction of one letter grade to the paper's final grade.

Late papers for Major Essays will be docked half a letter grade each day they are late.

Late papers for credit/half credit/no credit assignments (all responses, activities, etc.) will receive half credit if submitted late.

# Absence Policy

You do NOT need to excuse absences with me over email. I do not take attendance, meaning I do not require notification about when you miss class.

If you are absent, please note that I DO NOT review what was missed over email. Instead, you can catch up with what you missed via any of the following options:

- email another person in the class
- review the Zoom slides that I post to Canvas
- schedule an office hours appointment with me

## Program Information

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Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

**Goal 1:** To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

**Goal 2:** To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

**Goal 3:** To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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### GE Area C2: Humanities

Area C Arts and Humanities courses help students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and to develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. C2 Humanities courses encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, and cultural importance.

### GE Area C2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of a C2 course, students should be able to:

1. analyze and understand works of philosophical and humanistic importance, including their temporal and cultural dimensions;
2. explore and articulate their own subjective aesthetic and intellectual responses to such texts;
3. analyze and assess ideas of value, meaning, and knowledge, as produced within the humanistic disciplines; and
4. research and write effective analyses of works of the human intellect and imagination

**Writing Practice:** Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

## Course Materials

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Available for Purchase through Canvas page

*A Rage in Harlem*, Chester Himes, ISBN-10: 9780679720409; ISBN-13: 978-0679720409

*In A Lonely Place*, Dorothy B. Hughes ISBN-10: 1681371472; ISBN-13: 978-1681371474

*Gone Girl*, Gillian Flynn, ISBN-10: 0307588378; ISBN-13: 978-0307588371

Other required readings/films can be found either linked in the syllabus or as PDFs in Canvas.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, you are expected to spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

All assignments due to Canvas unless otherwise instructed.

Assignment Word Count and Assignment GELO

Assignment	Word Count	Learning Goals	Final Grade %
Essay # 1 (Close Reading)*	500-750	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3	15
Essay # 2 (Final Paper)*	1,250-1,500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	20
Diagnostic	500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	2.5
<i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> Activity	250	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	2.5

<i>ARiH</i> Character Arc Activity	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<i>IALP</i> Activity	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
True Crime Response	500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	7.5
Group Detective Profile Presentation	-	GE 1, 2; E 1, 2, 3, 4	10
<i>GG</i> Character Comparison	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<i>Chan is Missing</i> Response	250-500	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	5
<b>Final Exam</b>	-	GE 1, 2, 3; E 1, 2, 3, 4	22.5

\* - assignment requires rough draft and final draft

**Bolded** – letter-grade assignments

All other assignments are Credit/Half Credit/No Credit

## ✓ Grading Information

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### About Grades

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: argument (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and analysis.

An "A" range essay is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.

A "B" range essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an "A" essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.

A "C" range essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

A "D" range essay will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.

An "F" essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (<60)

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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This schedule is subject to change with fair notice: you are responsible for any changes made in class or through email.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/24	<b>Zoom Session:</b> Introduction <b>On Canvas:</b> Detective Diagnostic due 1/31, 11:59PM
2	1/29	<b>Zoom Session:</b> Introduction <b>On Canvas:</b> Detective Diagnostic due 1/31, 11:59PM
2	1/31	<b>Read:</b> Edgar Allan Poe, <a href="#">"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"</a> <b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Reading; Introduce 'Whodunit'
3	2/5	<b>Read:</b> Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, <a href="#">"The Adventure of the Dancing Men"</a> <b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Reading; Observation/Inference
3	2/7	<b>Read:</b> Agatha Christie, <a href="#">"The Bloodstained Pavement"</a> <b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Reading

4	2/12	<p><b>Watch Before Class:</b> Billy Wilder <a href="#"><i>Witness for the Prosecution</i></a></p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> discuss <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i></p> <p><b>On Canvas:</b> Complete <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> Activity (Due 2/14, 11:59PM)</p>
4	2/14	<p><b>Read:</b> Raymond Chandler, <a href="#"><i>The Simple Art of Murder</i></a></p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Readings; Introduce Noir</p>
5	2/19	<p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Close Reading Introduction/Assign Close Reading Essay</p>
5	2/21	<p><b>Read:</b> Chester Himes, <i>A Rage in Harlem</i>, pp. 1-50</p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Introduce Himes</p>
6	2/26	<p><b>Read:</b> Chester Himes, <i>A Rage in Harlem</i>, pp. 51-100</p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Reading</p>
6	2/28	<p><b>Read:</b> Chester Himes, <i>A Rage in Harlem</i>, pp. 101-151</p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Finish <i>ARiH</i></p> <p><b>On Canvas:</b> Complete <i>ARiH</i> Character Arc Activity (Due 3/1, 11:59PM)</p>
7	3/4	<p><b>Read:</b> Dorothy B. Hughes, <i>In A Lonely Place</i>, pp. 1-75 (Chapters 1-2)</p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Introduce Hughes</p>
7	3/6	<p><b>Read:</b> Dorothy B. Hughes, <i>In A Lonely Place</i>, pp. 76-150 (Chapters 3-5)</p> <p><b>Zoom Session:</b> Discuss Reading</p>

8	3/11	<p>Read: Dorothy B. Hughes, <i>In A Lonely Place</i>, pp. 151-225 (Chapters 6-7)</p> <p>Zoom Session: Finish Discussing <i>IALP</i></p> <p>On Canvas: Complete <i>IALP</i> Activity (Due 3/13 11:59PM)</p>
8	3/13	<p>Zoom Session: Peer Review Workshop # 1</p> <p>On Canvas: Close Reading Paper Final Draft Due 3/17, 11:59PM</p>
9	3/18	Zoom Session: Assign Group Detective Profiles
9	3/20	Zoom Session: Group Detective Profile Work Day
10	3/25	Zoom Session: Group Detective Profile Presentations (Groups 1-5)
10	3/27	Zoom Session: Group Detective Profile Presentations (Groups 6-10)
11	4/1	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS
11	4/3	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS
12	4/8	<p>Read: Edmund Pearson, "<a href="#">Hell Benders, or The Story of a Wayside Tavern</a>"</p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss Reading; Introduce True Crime</p>
12	4/10	<p>Read: Soraya Roberts, "<a href="#">True Crime and the Trash Balance</a>"</p> <p>Listen to: <a href="#">Serial, Season 1, Episode 1</a>; <a href="#">Dirty John, Episode 1</a></p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss Podcasts</p>
13	4/15	<p>Watch (before class): Frontline, <a href="#">Raising Adam Lanza</a></p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss film</p> <p>On Canvas: True Crime Response Due 4/17, 11:59PM</p>

13	4/17	<p>Read: Gillian Flynn, <i>Gone Girl</i> (pp. 1-108)</p> <p>Zoom Session: Introduce Flynn; Introduce The Thriller</p>
14	4/22	<p>Read: Gillian Flynn, <i>Gone Girl</i> (pp. 109-216)</p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss reading</p>
14	4/24	<p>Read: Gillian Flynn, <i>Gone Girl</i> (pp. 217-324)</p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss Reading; Assign Final Paper</p> <p>On Canvas: Complete <i>GG</i> Character Comparison Activity (Due 4/26, 11:59PM)</p>
15	4/29	<p>Read: Gillian Flynn, <i>Gone Girl</i> (pp. 325-423)</p> <p>Zoom Session: Finish <i>GG</i></p>
15	5/1	<p>Watch on Youtube Before Class: <a href="#">Chan is Missing</a></p> <p>Zoom Session: Discuss Film</p> <p>On Canvas: Complete Chan is Missing Response Due 5/3, 11:59PM</p>
16	5/3	Zoom Session: JSTOR Research Exercise
16	5/8	Zoom Session: Extra Credit Mystery
17	5/13	<p>Zoom Session: Peer Review Workshop # 2</p> <p>On Canvas: Final Paper Final Draft Due 5/15, 11:59PM</p>
Final Exam	5/17	Canvas: Final Exam, Due 12:00PM