**SYLLABUS**

**College of Foreign Languages and Literatures Autumn, 2024-2025**

**Teacher: Prof. Sandro Jung**

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| **Course**  **Code** | FORE130192.01 | | |
| **Course**  **Title** | Topics in British and American Literature | | |
| **Credit** | 2 | Credit Hours | 32 |
| **Course**  **Nature** | Optional Course in the Department of English | | |
| **Course**  **Objectives** | This course will focus on the short detective fiction of Agatha Christie (1890-1976), the most successful twentieth-century author of detective novels. While Christie developed two well-known sleuths, Hercules Poirot and Miss Jane Marple, who featured in novels and whose cases have frequently been translated into the medium of film as well into more than 100 languages, this course will concentrate on the early short stories that were published in the 1920s and that predate the Miss Marple novels. Students will be introduced to the study of character and narrative, as well as the genre conventions of detective fiction, at the same time that they will be furnished with tools to understand the various techniques used in crime fiction. Particular attention will be devoted to reading Miss Marple as a moral standard against which aberrant behaviour is tested by Christie. The course will conclude with an exhibition in which posters on the individual short stories will be featured. | | |
| **Course Requirements:** Thisisanoptionalcoursedesignedforstudents majoring in English language and literature or related areas. The course is open to auditors and students from other majors. | | | |
| **Teaching Methods:** Lecture, discussion, writing assignments, poster presentations | | | |
| **Course Schedule, Readings, and Assignments (Tentative)** | | | |
| Week 1: General Introduction; Christie and detective fiction; introducing Miss Marple  Week 2: Miss Marple and “ruthlessness”  Week 3: “The Tuesday Night Club” (story 23)  Week 4: “The Idol House of Astarte” (story 24)  Week 5: “Ingots of Gold” (story 25)  Week 6: “The Bloodstained Pavement” (story 26)  Week 7: “Motive v. Opportunity”  Week 8: Student Poster Presentations (7 minutes each)  Week 10: Student Poster Presentations (7 minutes each)  Week 11: “The Thumb Mark of St. Peter” (story 28)  Week 12: “The Blue Geranium” (story 34)  Week 13: “The Companion” (story 35). Deadline for submission of draft essay assignments (1400 words maximum)  Week 14: “The Four Suspects” (story 36)  Week 15: “A Christmas Tragedy” (story 37)  Week 16: Conclusion. Deadline for submission of final essay assignments. Exhibition. | | | |
| **Grading and Evaluation**   * Attendance & Participation (10%). Students are required to attend all classes and actively participate in oral and written activities. * Assignment (40%) * Poster presentation (20%). * Final poster (30%)   **Grading Policy**  We view the poster presentations and assignments as opportunities for student learning and we view grading them primarily as an opportunity to give you feedback. We do our best to evaluate your work carefully and help you understand a) the strengths of your work, and/or b) how it could have been stronger. Like other members of the faculty, we use the following scale to assign grades:  **A** Truly outstanding work  **A-** Excellent work  **B+** Very good work  **B** Good work  **B- or below** Work is unsatisfactory  **Academic Integrity**  Academic work submitted for this course must be the work of the participant and any sources  used in compiling must be accurately and thoroughly cited. Papers should be written in APA or MLA style (i.e., American Psychological Association  editorial style). The following webiste might be helpful:  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/apa\_style/apa\_style\_introduction.html  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/mla\_style/mla\_style\_introduction.html | | | |
| **Teaching Materials and References**  • All short stories will be included in: Agatha Christie, *The* *Complete* *Short* *Stories* *[Miss* *Marple* *and* *Mystery]* (London: Harper Collins, 2008). The volume will be available in digital form on the Elearning course platform.  • Research articles to be uploaded | | | |