

HUM 263 : POPULAR CULTURE: DETECTIVE STORIES

Transcript title

Pop Culture: Detective Stories

Credits

4

Grading mode

Standard letter grades

Total contact hours

40

Lecture hours

40

Recommended preparation

WR 121.

Course Description

Historical study of crime stories and the detective figure as revealed in popular culture through genres such as fiction, film, television, comics and journalism.

Course learning outcomes

1. Identify the historical development of five traditions in detective stories: the "ratiocinative," the "hard-boiled," the psychological study, the social critique, and the sensationalism of much "true crime" journalism.
2. Define and illustrate principal literary elements of narrative fiction (plot, character, theme, point of view, setting, symbol, style), using well-selected examples from representative works.
3. Analyze relationships among selected elements of literary or cinematic form and thematic content (such as setting and characterization, style and theme, or camera work and point of view) within a work of narrative fiction or film, to explain how these elements interact to shape the meaning and impact of individual works.
4. Analyze relationships between detective story texts and other media of popular culture (such as advertising, music, comics, art, television) to explain how this genre expresses cultural contexts (values and beliefs, historical background, social and political realities).
5. Use comparison/contrast analysis to demonstrate significant differences and similarities between selected works of narrative fiction and/or film (such as in fiction by different authors; in fiction from different sub-genres; in fiction and film adaptation of the same or different works by an individual author).
6. Demonstrate effective writing skills in when communicating one's interpretations, using relevant, well-selected evidence from works of narrative fiction and/or film in order to illustrate and support one's argument.
7. Writing in Context: Identify and practice the role of collaborating to create knowledge through sharing formal or informal writing in the classroom.
8. for a sequence of any two Pop Culture courses: Identify and illustrate mixed genres in popular culture (such as Western detective); analyze the

products of popular culture as not only reflections of social values, but attempts to resolve cultural contradictions.

General education/Related instruction lists

- Arts and Letters