English 216: Short Story

Mystery and Detective Fiction

Instructor: M. Wendy Hennequin

Syllabus

**Required Texts**

All of these books should be available at the Co-op, but I highly recommend ordering used copies through places like [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [Half.com](http://www.half.com), and other such web sites. It's much cheaper.

* Poe, *Tales of Mystery and Detection*, ISBN 0486287440. (You may use on-line texts for Poe as well.)
* Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays*, ISBN 0312089457.
* Craig, ed. *The Oxford Book of English Detective Stories*, ISBN 0192803751.
* Hillerman, ed. *The Best American Mystery Stories of the Century*, ISBN 0618012710.
* Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, ISBN 0425173895 (other editions are fine).
* Peters, *A Rare Benedictine*, ISBN 0446400882.
* Peters, *One Corpse Too Many*, ISBN 044640513.

We will also be reading several stories on Electronic Reserve.

I have put the following books on Reserve for this course. Some of the readings in these books are required.

* Hillerman and Herbert, eds. *The Oxford Book of American Detective Stories.* I am trying to get the good folks at Electronic Course Reserve to put all the selections from this book on-line, but copyrights are tricky things. You may have to go physically.
* Priestman, *Crime Fiction*.
* Priestman, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Crime Fiction*
* Winks, ed. *Detective Fiction*.
* Various short stories from various sources. As with the Hillerman and Herbert book, above, I am trying to get all these on-line.

**Required Work**

* **Attending class.**
* **Reading daily assignments.** This is a literature course. We will be doing lots of reading.
* **Quizzes.**
* **Participating in class and on the WebCT discussion board.**
* **A critical project.** We will be doing critical projects instead of papers.
* **A midterm exam.**
* **A final exam.** The final, and its date, are mandated by the University; make your travel plans accordingly.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be computed thus:

* **Midterm exam: 20%**. If you miss the mid-term, you may make it up *if and only if* you have documentation for your absence from the University (i.e., the Dean of Student Services or the Athletic Department) or a doctor.
* **Final exam: 20%**. If you miss the final, you may not make it up unless the University gives you permission. Their rule, not mine.
* **Quizzes: 20%**. Your grade here will be the quiz average. Yes, I drop the lowest quiz, but I do not allow make-up quizzes.
* **A critical project: 20%.** [Details](http://faculty.tnstate.edu/whennequin/mystery/mproject.html) can be found here.
* **Class participation: 20%**.

Class participation consists of:

* + *Attendance in class.* Yes, I give you a point every day just for showing up. If you show up late, I may give you half a point or no points.
  + *Participation in class.* For each class in which you ask a relevant question, add something relevant to the discussion, bring in information, or make a relevant comment, you gain another point--on top of the one you gained for simply attending.
  + *Participation on the WebCT discussion board.* Shy about speaking up in class? Make your comments or ask your questions on the WebCT discussion board. Relevant postings gain a point.
  + *Meeting with me in my office* (or elsewhere) about coursework also earns points.
  + *Excessive Absenteeism.* Students who miss 6 classes will automatically *fail* class participation. Students who miss more than 12 classes will automatically get a 0 for class participation. I will only make exceptions for those who have documentation from Dean of Student Services (for traumatic events like death and illness) and the Athletic Department.
  + *Perfect Attendance.* Students who attend every class will earn 5 points towards their class participation.

Class participation is ***not optional***. Participating in class demonstrates your knowledge and analysis of the texts, and grading participation will allow me to give you credit for this work.

**Contact Information**

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