

Summer 2021

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Special Topics Courses

ENGL-220-01 Crime and Mystery in Film and Literature

This course traces the history of the crime and mystery genres in film and literature from the nineteenth to today. Examples will span from 19th-century novels and short stories to the 20th-century suspense thrillers of Alfred Hitchcock and recent futuristic detective novels and films (such as *Blade Runner 2049*). We will explore the crime and mystery genres for the symbolic and thematic fascination it held for authors, directors, and audiences alike. Discussions will revolve around some fundamental questions, such as: What can crime stories tell us about justice and ethics? Why do audiences often like to be frightened? What does it mean to be haunted by a mystery or an unexplainable event? This course will thus provide students the opportunity to learn new interpretive approaches to literature and film and to become familiarized with hybrid genres, such as the metaphysical detective tale, film noir, the sci-fi detective story, and the existential thriller. Fulfills Analyzing & Interpreting Texts Core

GSS-355-01 Sexuality, Theory, and Film

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical foundations of “queer theory.” It will focus on the way queer theory interacts with, and contributes to, other disciplines like literature, psychoanalysis, post-structuralism and film theory. We will examine how Queer theory can delineate a political expression of the desire to problematize the way social power produces gender norms and social inequalities. Then we will explore how “Queerness” can work in literature and Film to destabilize patriarchal values of coherence and identity in order to adopt a playful and experimental form that paves the way for new forms of knowing and being.