

ENGL 202: Literary Genres
Detective Fiction: Nordic Noir
Winter 2019
Tu/Th – 11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. – SE 221

Professor: Dr. Kim Lacey (please, call me Kim!)
In-person office hours: Tu/Th 8:15-9:45 a.m.
and by appointment
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Detective fiction is a wide-ranging genre. More recently, popular detective fiction novels from Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark) have made their way around the world, enticing readers with their mysterious landscapes, hardcore detectives, and brutal crimes. This semester, we will “travel” to these five countries through six novels and two films. Through these texts, we’ll explore the cultural differences between American and British detectives and their Nordic counterparts.

Course Questions: What is a detective? How does the detective function in literary fiction? What does the detective represent? What are the different kinds of detectives? What does the detective actually “solve”? How does the detective challenge social, gender, and/or class structures?

Course Style: This course will be conducted as a seminar, meaning you are expected to come to class ready to participate. There will be very few lectures—your inquiry, confusion, and interests will drive our in-class conversations. Be ready to talk each day we meet.

Required Texts to Purchase: These books have been ordered at the bookstore, but feel free to shop around online for the cheapest price. Also, you can use any edition of these books—the reading schedule is by chapters, not page numbers. I also have no problem with you using ebooks.

Jussi Adler-Olsen, *The Keeper of Lost Causes*, ISBN: 9780452297906

Karin Fossum, *The Water’s Edge*, ISBN: 9780547336114

Kati Hiekkapelto, *The Defenceless*, ISBN: 9781910633137

Arnaldur Indriðason, *Jar City*, ISBN: 9780312426385

Henning Mankell, *Faceless Killers*, ISBN: 9781400031573

Jo Nesbø, *Nemesis*, ISBN: 9780061655517

There will be other readings on Canvas, which will be noted on the calendar and/or in class. If you prefer to print these out, please budget appropriately.

A note about the content of our course: We will be dealing with very complex and mature subject matters this semester. A lot of the content we read will be *profane, graphic, violent, and sexually explicit*. If such topics bother or deeply offend you, this is probably not a course that best fits your needs. Please know that I do not expect you to agree with everything we discuss, but I do ask that you have an open mind and engage with the texts in an appropriately professional and academic manner. Some of the material we will be discussing is highly sensitive and incredibly personal. Please note that you are never under any circumstance expected to self-disclose any information you do not want to. As a member of this class, you must also respect others who do self-disclose information (this includes but

is not limited to sexual orientation, gender identification, social and personal experiences, etc.). Confidentiality is an important aspect of our classroom experience.

Assignments

Reading journal: 16% (2% each)
Mid-term exam (take home): 15%
Final exam (take home): 15%
Thematic analysis essay: 12%
Cultural analysis essay: 12%
Pop reading quizzes: 9% (3% each)
Group mystery: 8%
Discussion lead: 5%
Discussion lead response essay: 4%
In-class professional work ethic: 4%

A note about professional in-class work ethic: Full credit requires that you show thorough preparation and focused participation in all required activities. You are *required* to arrive on time. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will be asked to leave the class for the day. Do not make “being 10 minutes late” a habit—you are expected to be in class on time. Excessive lateness is rude to your classmates and me. Repeated lateness will affect your “professionalism” grade. If you cannot respect your classmates and me by showing up on time, then you are not welcome to participate in that day’s activities. I do notice when you’re not in class. Upon the completion of all the group project, each group member will have the opportunity to anonymously evaluate their group members, the results of which may affect your “professional in-class work ethic” grade.

Grading Scale

↑95%: A
↑90%: A-
↑87%: B+
↑83%: B
↑80%: B-
↑77%: C+
↑73%: C
↑60%: D
0%: F

A note on the grading scale: SVSU does not assign C-, D+, D- grades. Anything below a 73% will result in a D. Anything below a 60% will result in a F.

A note about extra credit and extensions: I do not give extra credit or extensions. Please complete all assignments to the best of your capabilities on time.

Late Work is Unacceptable. Please ensure that your work is submitted on time. The deadlines are clearly marked on all assignments and on the syllabus. If you know a due date conflicts with something outside of class, plan ahead and submit your assignment early. I will send a confirmation e-mail by 9 am the next morning. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, I did not receive your paper.

Attendance

Beginning the second week of class, attendance will be taken during each class meeting. You are allowed two excused absences. On your third absence, your grade will be reduced by one half of a grade. For example, if you had an A, on your third absence it would become an A-. On your fourth absence, your grade will be lowered by a full grade. For example, if you had an A, on your fourth absence it would become a B. On your fifth absence, you will be asked to drop the class. Use your excused absences wisely. Once they are gone, they are gone.

A note about potential online course meetings: Unless the university closes, we will have class. If I “cancel” an in-person meeting, you will have some obligation for class in the form of an online activity, which I will circulate via email. If I know I must cancel in advance, I will also discuss the activity in class. If you do not complete that online activity on time, you will be marked absent for that day. These instances are rare, if they occur at all, but it is your responsibility to check your e-mail (at least once before class starts each day) for instructions.

Technology Policies

I encourage you to use whatever note taking system you prefer. If, however, you choose to use a laptop or tablet, you are asked that it be used for class work and not for homework for your other classes or social activities. **Phones are prohibited during class time. Phones must be turned to silent during and must be stored away during class time.** You are required to be an active member of our learning community. Be aware that I will call on people at random if the discussion is dead. If you are not prepared to participate because you are distracted by technology, this may affect your final professionalism grade.

I also strongly encourage you to use some sort of cloud storage in which you can store and access your work from multiple locations. I recommend Dropbox or Google Drive. Additionally, as SVSU students, you have access to Microsoft One Drive. Not having access to your work is not an excuse for late work. Be prepared for all possibilities.

I will not share grades or other sensitive course information via social media.

Disability and Non-Discrimination Clause

Students with disabilities which may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to meet with the instructor or contact the SVSU Office of Disability Services (phone: 989-964-4168). SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

Academic Integrity Policy

According to the *SVSU Student Handbook*, “Academic integrity is undermined whenever one is dishonest in the pursuit of knowledge. Dishonesty takes many forms, including cheating, plagiarism, and other activities for undermining the educational process and will be reported to the Academic Conduct Board for further sanctions.

Forms of plagiarism include directly transcribing (copying) without quotation and attribution, summarizing without attribution, paraphrasing or patchwork paraphrasing without attribution, patching electronic materials (including pictures, graphs, and/or charts) without attribution.

I reserve the right to use Turn It In. In ENGL 111, deliberate plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in the grade of zero (0) for the entire assignment.

The full Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:

<http://www.svsu.edu/studentconductprograms/policies/academicintegritypolicy/>

Writing Center Information

One of the many advantages of this University is the Writing Center. You are strongly encouraged to meet with a tutor to discuss your writing. Sessions at the Writing Center are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please stop by the Writing Center anytime you need additional help.

Writing Center Hours: M-Th 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Location: Zahnow 250 (2nd floor of the library)

Phone: 989-964-6061

Website: www.svsu.edu/writingcenter

Course Calendar

All readings must be completed before that day's class. Not coming prepared with the reading completed will affect your in-class work professionalism grade.

A note on the reading: You will have a reading assignment almost every day. Make sure you plan time in your homework schedule for reading. Plan to read between 35-50 pages each day, seven days a week. This is a literature course, meaning there will be a lot of reading. Please have access to the assigned readings in class. We will use them at different times for different in-class activities.

Date	Reading Due	Major Assignments Due
Denmark		
Tu, 1/15	Intro to course Syllabus overview	
Th, 1/17	Syllabus Details Introductions Course questions <i>The Keeper of Lost Causes (TKOLC):</i> prologue-chapter 6 (pgs. 1-35)	
Tu, 1/22	<i>TKOLC:</i> chapters 7-27 (36-212)	Reading Journal #1
Th, 1/24	<i>TKOLC:</i> chapters 28-31 (pgs. 213-266)	
Tu, 1/29	<i>TKOLC:</i> chapters 32-epilogue (pgs. 267-395)	Reading Journal #2
Iceland		
Th, 1/31	<i>Jar City (JC):</i> chapters 1-10 (pgs. 1-59)	
Tu, 2/5	<i>JC:</i> chapters 11-29 (pgs. 60-188)	Reading Journal #3
Th, 2/7	<i>JC:</i> chapters 30-39 (pgs. 189-247)	
Tu, 2/12	<i>JC:</i> chapters 40-45 (248-275)	Reading Journal #4
Sweden		
Th, 2/14	<i>Faceless Killers (FK):</i> chapters 1-3 (pgs. 1-39)	

Tu, 2/19	<i>FK</i> : chapters 4-11 (pgs. 40-197)	Thematic Analysis Essay
Th, 2/21	<i>FK</i> : chapters 12-15 (198-280) Begin watching <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> (in-class)	Reading Journal #5
Tu, 2/26	Continue watching <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> (in-class)	
Th, 2/28	Finish watching <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> (in-class)	Mid-Term Exam (take home)
Tu, 3/5	No class: Spring break	
Th, 3/7	No class: Spring break	
Finland		
Tu, 3/12	<i>The Defenceless (TD)</i> : chapters 1-9 (pgs. 1-123)	
Th, 3/14	<i>TD</i> : chapters 10-15 (pgs. 124-193)	Reading Journal #6
Tu, 3/19	<i>TD</i> : chapters 16-30 (pgs. 194-301)	
Norway		
Th, 3/21	<i>The Water's Edge (TWE)</i> : chapters 1-12 (pgs. 1-52)	
Tu, 3/26	<i>TWE</i> : chapters 13-37 (pgs. 53-172)	
Th, 3/28	<i>TWE</i> : chapters 38-51 (pgs. 173-227)	Reading Journal #7
Tu, 4/2	Begin watching <i>Insomnia</i> (in-class)	
Th, 4/4	Finish watching <i>Insomnia</i> (in-class)	Cultural Analysis Essay
Tu, 4/9	<i>Nemesis</i> : chapters 1-15 (1-138)	
Th, 4/11	<i>Nemesis</i> : chapters 16-19 (139-193)	
Tu, 4/16	<i>Nemesis</i> : chapters 20-31 (197-312)	Reading Journal #8 (last one!)
Th, 4/18	<i>Nemesis</i> : chapters 32-37 (315-367)	
Tu, 4/23	<i>Nemesis</i> : chapters 38-51 (368-474)	Group Mystery
Th, 4/25	Read another group's mystery Course evaluations Last day of class	
Th, 5/2		Final Exam (take home)