

OHLONE COLLEGE
Ohlone Community College District
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

I. Description of Course:

1. **Department/Course:** ENGL - 121
2. **Title:** The Mystery: Unlocking Its Secrets
3. **Cross Reference:**
4. **Units:** 3
Lec Hrs: 3
Lab Hrs:
Tot Hrs: 54.00
5. **Repeatability:** No
6. **Grade Options:** Letter Grade, May Petition for Pass/No Pass (GP)
7. **Degree/Applicability:**
Credit, Degree Applicable, Transferable - CSU (T)
8. **General Education:**
9. **Field Trips:** Not Required
10. **Requisites:**
Advisory
ENGL 101A Reading and Written Composition
12. **Catalog Description:**
The course explores the mystery genre by introducing students to various works of past and contemporary British and American authors and by introducing students to the various sub-genres such as cozies, amateurs, police procedurals, forensics, and private investigators.
13. **Class Schedule Description:**
The course studies various aspects of the mystery--setting, plot, character, historical context.
14. **Counselor Information:**
This lower-division, transfer level humanities course focuses on the mystery by reading and analyzing various writers' works.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

1. Analyze the literary elements (plot, setting, point of view, character development) of mystery novels.
2. Compare and contrast stylistic elements (style, structure, and form) of genre and sub-genres of mystery novels.
3. Examine how the multi-cultural aspects of the character and/or author relate to the novels' literary elements.

III. Course Outline:

A. Introduction

1. Scope of class
 - a. thematic approach
 - b. popularity of genre
2. Focus of class
 - a. role of the detective

b. professional v. amateur

B. Sub Genres

1. Cozies

- a. main character is an amateur sleuth
- b. solves crimes when police can't
- c. works by Hailey Lind, Laura Crum, Joanne Pence

2. Professional Amateurs

- a. main character's occupation gives reasons to solve crimes
- b. characters are lawyers, journalists, physicians
- c. works by Penny Warner, Perri O'Shaughnessy, Jonnie Jacobs

3. Police Procedurals

- a. main character is involved in upholding the law
- b. works by Laurie King, Jonnie Jacobs, Linda Fairstein, Leslie Glass

4. Private Investigators

- a. main character has experience in law enforcement
- b. main character no longer works in law enforcement
- c. works by Marcia Mueller, Sue Grafton, S.J. Rozan

5. Forensics

- a. main characters are crime scene investigators
- b. works by Kathy Reichs, Patricia Cornwell

C. Conclusion

1. Author

- a. update on author
- b. continuation of series

2. Student feedback

- a. evaluation of course
- b. suggestions of other authors

IV. Course Assignments:

A. Reading Assignments

- 1. Read biographies of each author.
- 2. Read information about authors/novels from author websites.
- 3. Read each novel within a two-week span.

B. Projects, Activities, and other Assignments

- 1. In a group, contact one of the authors and collaboratively interview the writer about his/her craft; then upload the interview to share with the rest of the class.
- 2. Access Gillian Roberts' website, read her suggestions on how to write a mystery, and then apply them to one of the works by creating discussion questions for the rest of the class.

C. Writing Assignments

- 1. Write one 3-4 page essay that analyzes different literary elements of the novel.
- 2. Write a comparison/contrast essay of one author's early and later works.
- 3. Post weekly responses to the works on the discussion board.

V. Methods of Evaluation/Assessment:

- A. out-of-class writing assignments
- B. response journals
- C. group presentation evaluations
- D. quizzes on authors/works/terminology

VI. **Methods of Instruction:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Demonstration
- D. Audiovisual
- E. Independent Study
- F. Computer Assisted Instruction
- G. Collaborative Learning
- H. Distance Learning

VII. **Textbooks:**

Recommended

1. Crum, Laura *Cutter* 1st Edition, St. Martin's Press, 1994 ISBN: 0-312-95674-6
2. Jacobs, Jonnie *The Next Victim* 1st Edition, Pinnacle Books, 2007 ISBN: 07860-1668-X
3. King, Laurie R. *A Grave Talent* 1st Edition, Bantam Books, 1993 ISBN: 0-553-57399-3
4. Lind, Hailey *Feint of Art* 1st Edition, Signet, 2006 ISBN: 0-451-21699-7
5. O'Shaughnessy, Perri *Obstruction of Justice* 1st Edition, Dell, 1997 ISBN: 0-440-22472-1
6. Pence, Joanne *To Catch a Cook* 1st Edition, Avon Books, 2000 ISBN: 0-06-103085-6
7. Warner, Penny *Dead Body Language* 1st Edition, Bantam Books, 1997 ISBN: 0-553-57586-4

Supplemental

- A. Roberts, Gillian *You Can Write a Mystery* 1st Edition, Writer's Digest Books, 1999 ISBN: 0-89879-863-9

VIII. **Supplies:**

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