Literature and Gender
ENG 4360.001
T-R 9:30am-10:45am
ECDC-219C

Dr. Cailin Copan-Kelly
Office Building: CE 214A
Office Telephone:
Email:
Office Hours: M: 1:00-3:00pm; T: 11:30-12:30pm; W: 12:30-2:30pm

Literature and Gender: Crime and Modern Fiction

Agatha Christie, Peril at End House

Course Description

This course will explore the topic of crime in modern fiction by considering questions of gender, race, sexuality and class in literature. From classic detective pieces by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie, to the chilling post-war noir of Shirley Jackson and Dorothy B. Hughes, to the more contemporary masterpieces of Barbara Neely and Emma Pérez, this course will consider how crime writers subvert traditional norms of masculinity, femininity, and sexuality. We will especially consider how literature can help us address issues such as violence against women, racial discrimination, transphobia and homophobia in the world. Feminist theory, queer theory, and decolonial methodologies will form our primary critical lens for approaching these texts.
**Student Learning Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

**Critical Thinking**

CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.

CT3. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.

**Communication Skills**

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

**Personal Responsibility:**

PR1. Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

**Social Responsibility:**

SR3. Engage in regional, national, and global communities.

**Major Course Requirements:**

Students will be assessed according to the following assignments:

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Homework Assignments, Quizzes, and In-Class Writing Responses (HQI): 20%
- Current Events Presentation: 10%
- Thought Papers: 15%
- Mid-Term Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

**Attendance:**

Attendance is crucial for passing the course. If a student misses more than three classes, their attendance/participation grade will drop by 2/3 of a letter grade. An excess of five absences will result in a failing grade for Attendance/Participation. If a student is more than fifteen minutes late for class or leaves more than five minutes before the end of class, they will be counted as absent. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Professor in the event of an absence.
Participation:

Participation is absolutely essential for success in this discussion-based course. In order for a student to receive an A in this category, students must contribute substantially to the discussion in every class meeting. These are the requirements for “substantial contribution” to discussion:

- Sharing comments and questions that refer to specific passages in the text that we have read for the day
- Listening to and building off of other students contributions to class discussion so we can conduct a genuine conversation about the reading
- Engaging in considerate/constructive debate with your fellow students
- Fully participating in all group work and in-class writing assignments
- Bringing all the required reading materials to class; be sure to print off any material from Blackboard or bring them to class on an e-reader.

Homework Assignments, Quizzes, and In-Class Writing Responses (HQI) (20%):

Quizzes, homework assignments and in-class writing responses will be given in-class throughout the course in order to assess students’ completion and comprehension of the assigned reading. The Professor does not divulge the number of HQIs that will be given over the course of the semester. **Quizzes, homework assignments and in-class writing responses missed due to absence or tardiness cannot be made up.** If a student leaves class early, any HQI completed in class will be discounted.

Thought Papers (20%):

Students will produce two thought papers throughout the semester. Thought papers should be 2-3 pages in length and should engage primarily with one quoted passage from one text that we have read. A more detailed description of the assignment with suggested topics will be provided closer to the due date.

Mid Term Exam (20%):

Students will take a mid-term exam consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. A review will precede the exam.

Final Exam (25%):

The final exam will also consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A review will precede the exam.
Required Texts:


* Hughes, Dorothy B. *In a Lonely Place*. The Feminist Press at CUNY. (Nov. 1, 2003). **ISBN-10:** 1558614559


All other required readings are available on Blackboard (BB). **You are required to bring the assigned reading for the day with you to class.**

Course Supplies:

You will need access to the following materials for the course:

- A writing utensil and paper with you in class
- A computer with Microsoft Word and a printer to write/print your papers
- A computer with reliable internet access and a current version of Adobe Acrobat reader for the pdfs on Blackboard

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the failure of the assignment. A second offense will result in the referral of the student for disciplinary sanctions to academic affairs.

Plagiarism is easily avoided. If you are using an outside source for your paper, always fully cite that source according to MLA guidelines. If you are ever in doubt about when to cite a source, please contact me at ____.
**Dropping the Course**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Nov. 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom Standards and Professional Behavior Guidelines**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, office hours etc.

Disruptive behaviors that are prohibited in this classroom include:

- Sleeping in class
- Arriving late to class
- Leaving class early
- Attending class without bringing the required reading
- Texting or talking on the phone in class
- Playing or listening to music during class
- Using a computer/tablet/phone during class for anything besides reading course material
- Eating in class
- Talking over other students or the professor during class discussion
- Having side conversations with your neighbor during class discussion
- Using offensive or derogatory language in class discussion

**Grade Appeals**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student

Reading and Assignment Schedule

R Aug 28 Welcome/Introduction
T Sept. 2 Sherlock Holmes “The Speckled Band” (BB), Carlen Lavigne, “Death Wore Black Chiffon” (BB)
R Sept. 4 Laurie R King, “Excerpt from The Beekeeper’s Apprentice” (BB)
T Sept. 9 Shirley Jackson, “Louisa, Please Come Home” (BB); Jennifer Egan, “Black Box” (BB)
R. Sept. 11 Peril at End House; Maureen T. Reddy, “Women Detectives” (BB)
T Sept. 16 Peril at End House
R Sept. 18 Peril at End House
T Sept 23 Peril at End House
R Sept 25 Thought Paper 1 due
T Sept. 30 *Passing*


T Oct. 7 *Passing*; Judith Butler, “Passing, Queering” (BB)

R Oct 9 *In a Lonely Place*

T Oct 14 *In a Lonely Place*; Helen Hanson, “The Femme Fatale” (BB)

R Oct 16 *In a Lonely Place*

T Oct 21 *In a Lonely Place*

R Oct 23 **Mid Term Exam**

T Oct 28 In Class Viewing, *Orange is the New Black*

R Oct 30 *Reading Day*

T Nov 4 *Forgetting the Alamo*; Gloria Anzaldúa, “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” (BB)

R Nov 6 *Forgetting the Alamo*

T Nov 11 *Forgetting the Alamo*; “The Decolonial Imaginary” (BB)

R Nov 13 *Forgetting the Alamo*

**Thought Paper 2 due**

T Nov 18 *Blanche on the Lam*; Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” (BB) and Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement” (BB)

R Nov 20 *Blanche on the Lam*

T Nov 25 *Blanche on the Lam*

R Nov 27 **Class Cancelled – Thanksgiving Break**

T Dec. 2 Wrap Up