COURSE DESCRIPTION

The genre of Tartan Noir is among the most popular in Scotland and around the world today, but Scottish crime fiction has a long history. This course will introduce students to crime fiction written by several Scottish writers including Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle, Ian Rankin, and Denise Mina. We will study the features, themes, and techniques of the genre as it has developed over time, investigate Scottish and global interest in stories about crime, and contextualize the modern concept of Tartan Noir by reading reviews and learning about crime fiction festivals and competitions held throughout Scotland every year.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will:

- identify the forms, features, and themes of Scottish crime fiction
- understand how this genre has changed and developed throughout history
- learn how to investigate its importance within Scottish culture
- refine skills for academic writing and literary analysis by practicing close reading and constructing debatable and complex arguments

1 Logo for the annual Bloody Scotland, Scotland’s International Crime Writing Festival. 
https://www.bloodyscotland.com/
**Required Texts**

- All additional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**In-Class Writing Assignments, Group Work, and Participation: (20%)** Your active participation in class discussion and group work is essential to your learning as well as that of your peers. You should therefore come to class having done all of the reading, but I do not expect you to have mastered the material. Rather, you should take careful notes on the reading and generate questions for each class session. What do you find confusing? Difficult? Interesting? Exciting? This process will prepare you to become an active learner and participant in class discussions. Frequently, I will ask you to do in-class writing activities that will help to collect your thoughts and generate questions and topics for discussion.

**Reading/Viewing Responses (50%):** At the end of each week, students will submit a written reading or viewing response that closely analyzes the text(s) and raises larger questions related to the genre of Scottish crime fiction. These assignments will be graded, and I will provide feedback on each student’s writing and analysis throughout the semester.

**Bloody Scotland Short Story Competition (30%):** As a class, we will recreate the Bloody Scotland Short Story Competition. Each student will read the finalists for the 2015 competition (available on Blackboard) and submit a detailed score sheet that explains the merits of each entry based on what we have learned this semester about Scottish crime fiction. The score sheet will contextualize each entry within the larger genre and its history. In class, students will have the opportunity to debate the merits of each story based on these reports, and we will declare a winner.

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100=A
- 80-89=B
- 70-79=C
- 60-69=D
- 0-59=F

**Course Policies**

**Attendance/Tardiness:** The success of this course depends on your regular attendance, especially given how condensed the summer session is. No more than one (1) unexcused absence is permitted in this course. Any absences beyond this allotted number will negatively affect your grade. It is also important that you arrive to each class on time out of respect for your peers and the instructor. Habitual lateness will also result in the lowering of your grade. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Deadlines:** Assignments are due on the deadlines listed on the syllabus. In fairness to everyone in this class, late work will receive a reduced grade. If you are experiencing a problem or have an emergency, please notify me in advance of the deadline rather than waiting until the deadline has passed.
Communication and Office Hours: I encourage you to schedule an appointment with me during my office hours if you have questions or would like to discuss your writing and your progress in the course. If my office hours do not work for your schedule, please contact me to schedule an appointment at an alternate time. The best way to contact me outside of class and office hours is by e-mail. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 12 hours of receiving it, but I check my e-mail less frequently in the evenings and on the weekends. Any communication I send out to the entire class will be to your Islander e-mail address, so please check your university e-mail on a regular basis.

Technology Policy: The success of this course depends on your full attention to the materials and the conversations that develop around them, so any use of laptops or tablets should be for approved class purposes only. You may not use your cell phone during this class. Please see me if you believe you should be exempt from this policy.

Paper Guidelines: Papers should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please do not use Cambria or Calibri font. You should have a consistent documentation style and should always cite your sources; I will upload a guide to citing works and ideas using the MLA citation style on our class’s Blackboard site. If you have any questions about citations, or how to acknowledge ideas or language other than your own, please come visit me in office hours. We will also review citation practices before the first paper. I also strongly encourage you to come to discuss your papers before they are due. I do not read full drafts, but I would be delighted to set up a meeting to discuss your paper with you before it is due.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / 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. Please remember that any words or ideas that come from an outside source must be cited. We will discuss conventions for using and citing sources in academic papers. If you have further questions about proper citation, please see me. In this class, any academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure of the course.

DROPPING A CLASS

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 by consulting the Study Abroad Director at study.abroad@tamucc.edu or 361-825-2789.
**CLASSROOM AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**SAFETY AND INCLUSIVITY**

I want all of my students to know that this classroom and my office are safe spaces for everyone. I have successfully completed TAMUCC’s Green Zone and Safe Zone trainings and will serve as a resource for student veterans, LGBTQ+ students, and other students in need of help in any way I can.

**GRADE APPEALS**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf)). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**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, Room #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 that prevents classes from being conducted in person, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or e-mail. In
addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**REMINDER TO ENGLISH MAJORS**

As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

You should have completed the reading listed for that week before the start of the week. We will continue to discuss the texts throughout the week. This schedule is subject to revision, with advance notice.

**WEEK 1:** Introduction to the course
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

**WEEK 2:** Arthur Conan Doyle, selected Sherlock Holmes short stories
*Sherlock* Screening

**WEEK 3:** Ian Rankin, Selected Short Stories (Inspector Rebus series)

**WEEK 4:** Denise Mina, *Still Midnight*

**WEEK 5:** Bloody Scotland Short Story Mock Competition (Score sheets due at the beginning of the week.)