

HISTORY 2148B
Police Work and Forensics in Victorian Britain
Fall/Winter 2020-21
Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30

Instructor: Professor Allyson N. May

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1205

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Lectures will take place in a virtual, synchronous format - on-line and at a dedicated time

Course Description:

Late Victorian Britain was the setting for Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional 'consulting detective,' Sherlock Holmes, whose afterlife in television and film would have astonished his creator. We examine Holmes's world. Our subjects include the nineteenth-century obsession with murder and the history of policing and detection.

Course Syllabus:

This lecture course explores the late Victorian British world, using the short stories of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose fictional 'consulting detective' has enjoyed an afterlife that would have astonished his creator, as a springboard. Criminal justice subjects include the real-life history of policing and detection, the nineteenth-century obsession with murder, the evolution of crime fiction, and the famously unsolved case of Jack the Ripper. We will also use the Holmes stories as points of entry for discussion of late Victorian empire; medicine, drink, and drugs; and male friendship. The course concludes with a brief examination of the ways in which those stories have been adapted, from the twentieth-century to the present day.

Students will write a book report based on the first Holmes story, a mid-term test, and a final exam.

On completion of this course students will:

Be familiar with the basic contours of late Victorian society

Possess an understanding of the history of Victorian policing and detection

Be aware of the discrepancies between crime and policing in the real world and their fictional representation

Have gained insight into the way history is reinterpreted and stories retold and remediated over time

Course Materials:

Required text:

Haia Shpayer-Makov, *The Ascent of the Detective: Police Sleuths in Victorian and Edwardian England* (Oxford, 2011)

Students will also be assigned Sherlock Holmes stories; these can be accessed online.

Methods of Evaluation:

Students must complete all coursework. Failure to complete all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade.

Attendance at lectures is necessary to pass the mid-term and final exam.

Students will write a 2000-word report on the original Sherlock Holmes story, 'A Study in Scarlet', exploring the fictional portrayal of an amateur sleuth and his relationship with professional detectives. Submission will be electronic. A late penalty of 2% per day, including weekends, will be assigned if the report is not received on the due date.

Book report (due 9 Feb.):	30%
Electronic mid-term (23 Feb.):	30%
Electronic final exam:	40%

Accommodation for missed midterms with a Self Reported Absence:

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test. Students must contact their professor to arrange a makeup test. Students who fail to write a makeup test in the designated time slot will receive a grade of zero.

Students should be aware that course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Use of Electronic Devices:

Both the mid-term and final exam are open book and will be written at home. The test and exam will be posted online and students' responses submitted via OWL.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness