

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Spring 2020

2020

Spring 1-15-2020

ENG 3300-001: Seminar in English Studies

Dagni Bredesen

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2020

Recommended Citation

Bredesen, Dagni, "ENG 3300-001: Seminar in English Studies" (2020). *Spring 2020*. 60.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2020/60

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2020 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2020 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Engl 3300-001: Seminar in English Studies (CRN: 32974)
"Before and After Sherlock Holmes"
Spring Semester 2020

Instructor: Dr. Dagni Bredesen
Contact number: 217-549-4355**
Email: dabredesen@eiu.edu
Office: CH 3751

Office Hours: Tu/Th 10am to 11am; Wed 1:45-2:45pm
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The rise of detective fiction in the mid-nineteenth century coincides with what is, arguably, the hey-day of domestic fiction, a type of novel that celebrates the everyday and the familial. At first glance, the very ordinariness of the domestic sphere would seem to stand in opposition to the extraordinary behaviors of criminals and their victims' experiences. We will find, however, that detectives first make their literary appearances probing beneath the veneer of respectability to expose the secrets at the heart of the domestic circle. In this course we will investigate the intersection of social history and imaginative construction, private and public spheres, legal contexts and urban transformations that gave rise to the detective in fact and in fiction, culminating in Arthur Conan Doyle's creation of Sherlock Holmes. We will be read and study detective stories in a range of formats—penny-dreadfuls, yellowback casebooks, long format novels—as well as newspaper accounts of actual crimes, investigations, punishments and the imprint these notorious crimes leave on society. We will be able to detect for ourselves the development of crime and detective fiction which, arguably, reached its apotheosis in Holmes and in those detectives that follow in his footsteps. At the same time we will also look at the foundations of a genre were laid but also from the outset were called into question. Feminist theory, narratology and post-colonial criticism will supplement our reading of primary texts.

COURSE TEXTS:

In addition to those handouts that will be distributed in class, we will be reading the following:

Bredesen, Dagni (Editor). *The First Female Detectives: The Female Detective (1864) and Revelations of a Lady Detective (1864)*.

Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone* (1868)

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories* (1994).

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Sign of Four* (1890).

Summerscale, Kate. *The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher* (2008).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will read, compare, discuss, and write about. In the process, students will develop and expand their skills to think critically, conduct relevant research from reliable sources, present their ideas and research in informal small group settings and formal presentations for the whole class.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

Course requirements will include: class presentations, discussion-leading, a short paper, and a final analytical research-informed project/paper.

Single-page Reading Response papers:	25% (5 @ 5%)
Presentations: Historical Brief	10%
Final Project	15%
Discussion Leading of major text	15%
Final Research Paper & Annotated Bib	20%
Participation*	15%

**Note: Participation encompasses many kinds of behavior. For one thing it means showing up. Showing up consists of being on time, attending the class itself, and being prepared for class by reading the assigned texts for each day and thoughtfully contributing to the class conversation. If you find it easy to share in class, participation may mean regulating the number of times you contribute; if you are more reserved then figuring out a way to contribute (through D2L perhaps) will also count. Please see Dr. Bredesen if you need clarification.*

Showing up also means getting a drink of water or going to the bathroom before or after class not disappearing in the middle of class for unspecified periods of time. Participation often includes in-class writing and different kinds of collaborative activities with other students.

Being mindful of what other classmates are saying and responding to their ideas as well as the instructor's also counts as participation. Learning each other's names and building on each other's ideas about our texts is part of participation and good classroom citizenship.

POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that any teacher who discovers an act of **plagiarism**—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (the *Random House Dictionary of English Language*) has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay, and for the course and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Attendance: I take attendance. More than 3 absences (that is, missing more than a week and a half of classes) will impact your grade detrimentally, while ensuring 1 or less absences attendance will enhance your grade.

Papers and Exams: Hand papers in on time. Late papers will be reduced 1/3 of a letter grade for each day the paper is late without a university approved excuse (verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation for an official University activity)

For **Academic Accommodation for a documented disability** arrangements must be made through the Office of Disability Services; you should, therefore, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

If you require general help with your studies, please make an appointment with the **Student Success Center**. Contact number: 217-581-6696.

EIU's **Writing Center**, located at 3110 Coleman Hall, has consultants that can help you brainstorm, organize, develop support for, and document your papers. BUT, they do not provide proof-reading or editing services.

If you find yourself experiencing depression, anxiety, or other concerns please consider making an appointment at the **Counseling Clinic**. Contact number: 217-581-3413.

Professor/Student Communication: I prefer being emailed to receiving texts from students. **So unless I text you first please email me** at my EIU address dabredesen@eiu.edu. I will also use email to communicate with you personally while I will make more general announcements using D2L's News feature on our course webpage. When I email you or when you email me, please use the following format: in the subject line please put our course number Eng 3300 and your topic (for example: Eng 3300—question about historical brief).

Please address me professionally using my title, "Dr" and last name Bredesen or my initial B (Dr. Bredesen or Dr. B). Please use complete sentences and proof read for punctuation and spelling.

Your attention to how you communicate with your professors is another way to positively impact your relationship with them and, by extension, how well you do in this class. This is also part of your education as professionals in training.