English & Drama
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
— M I S S I S S A U G A —

Instructor: Mark Crimmins

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Course Number: ENG236H5F

Course Title: Detective Fiction

Course description: After a close inspection of the first modern detective story by Poe and a rigorous examination of the death and rebirth of Sherlock Holmes as splendidly narrated by Arthur Conan Doyle's John Watson, we will turn our attention to a series of detective novels which reinvent or reanimate the detective genre: Hammett's timeless classic of hard-boiled fiction, set in Sam Spade's San Francisco; Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa's venture in the genre; marvellously creative postmodern detective tales by Boris Akunin and Mark Haddon; and two novels featuring detectives who would perhaps prefer to be doing something else: Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum and Qiu Xiaolong's Inspector Chen. As an alternate text for those who would like to replace one of the required texts with a much longer and more complex narrative, students will have the option of reading and writing on Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander as she appears in the first volume of his Millennium Trilogy. We will also view Kinji Fukusaku's 1968 cult classic film, *Black Lizard*, which gives—via Edogawa Ranpo, the 'Japanese Poe'—a name to one of the most legendary imprints in detective fiction history.

Required Reading:
Poe: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"; Doyle: "The Adventure of the Final Problem" and "The Adventure of the Empty House." Dashiell Hammett: *The Maltese Falcon*; Mario Vargas Llosa: *Who Killed Palomino Molero*? Boris Akunin: *Leviathan*; Qiu Xiaolong: *The Mao Case*; Mark Haddon: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; Janet Evanovich: *One for the Money*. Alternate optional text: Stieg Larsson: *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*.

First Authors to be Studied:

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation:
Short Paper/Written Assignment: 15%; Long Paper: 30%; Test: 15%; Final Exam: 30%; Participation: 10%.