



Instructor: Mark Crimmins

~ mark.crimmins@utoronto.ca

Course Number: ENG236H5F

Course Title: Detective Fiction

Course description: After a close inspection of two seminal modern detective stories by Poe and a rigorous examination of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 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 a novel featuring a detective who would perhaps prefer to be doing something else, Qiu Xiaolong's Inspector Chen of the Shanghai Police Department. 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 selections from Kinji Fukusaku's 1968 cult classic film, *Black Lizard*, which gives — via Edogawa Ranpo, the 'Japanese Poe' and inventor of Japan's No. 1 detective, Akechi — a name to one of the most legendary imprints in detective fiction history. We will study a selection of other filmic representations of detectives from cinema history.

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Required Reading:

Poe: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Purloined Letter"; Doyle: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; 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*; 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%.