

**Crime and Victorian Fiction****Prof. Elana Gomel****Phone**

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**Office Location**

Webb 510

**Office Hours**

Sunday 12-14 (by appointment)

**Course Overview**

Detective or mystery fiction is undoubtedly one of the most popular genre of fiction today. But what is its origin? Why did it come into being in the Victorian era? What is the relationship between actual crime and its representation in literature? How did the Victorian obsessions with violence, lower classes, gender and social disarray impact the narrative convention of crime fiction as we know it today? In this course we will try to answer these questions by looking at a representative selection of Victorian crime novels and tracing the connection between mystery fiction and social history.

**Required Text****Primary:**Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, *Uncle Silas*Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles***Secondary:**Julian Symons, *Bloody Murder*Patricia Merrivale, *Detecting Fiction*Elana Gomel, *Bloodscripts*,**Course Materials**

- <http://www.victorianweb.org/>
- <http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/section2198-catching-the-criminal.html>

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## Course Schedule

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February 27	Introduction	
March 3	Oliver Twist	Symons
March 6	Oliver Twist	Symons
March 10	Oliver Twist	
March 13	Woman in White	Merrivale
March 17	Woman in White	
March 20	Woman in White	
March 24	Woman in White	
March 27	Woman in White	
March 31	Lady Audley's Secret	
April 3	Lady Audley's Secret	
April 7	Lady Audley's Secret	
April 10	Lady Audley's Secret	
April 14	Lady Audley's Secret	
April 28	Uncle Silas	

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May 1	Uncle Silas
May 5	Uncle Silas
May 12	Uncle Silas
May 15	Strange Story
May 19	Strange Story
May 22	Strange Story

