

American Genre Fiction: The Western and the Hard-Boiled Detective

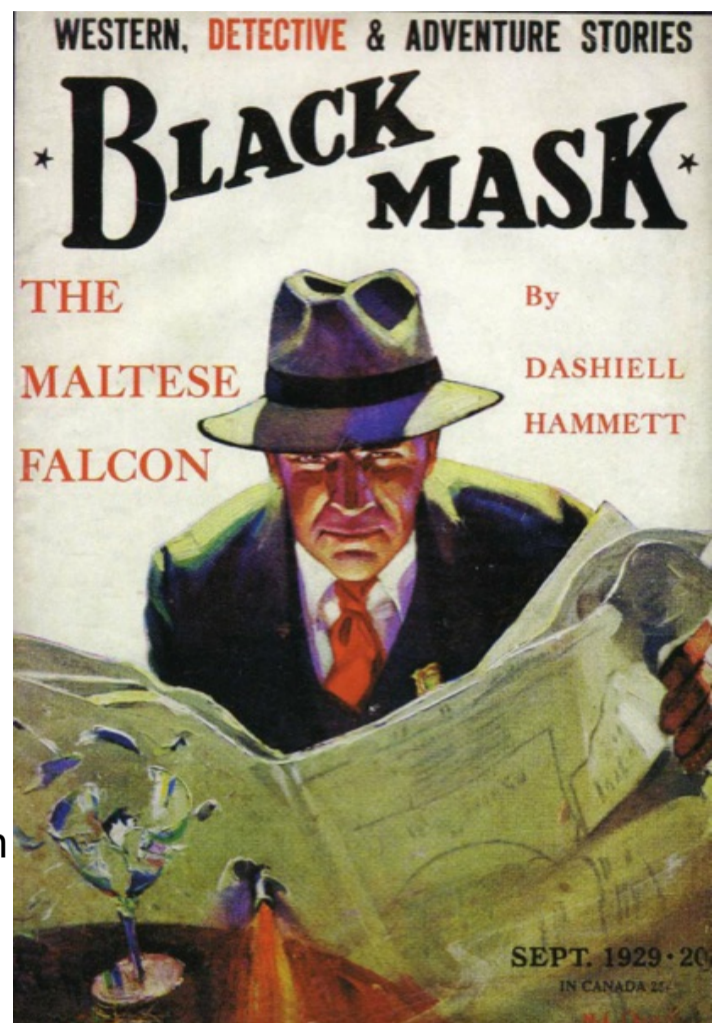
Course Meetings: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays period 5 (11:45-12:35) in TUR 2318

Instructor: Professor Susan Hegeman / shegeman@ufl.edu
(<mailto:shegeman@ufl.edu>) / 352-294-2815 / TUR 4119

Office hours: Fridays, 1-3 pm, or by appointment

Course Description

One of the many achievements of 20th century American culture is the creation of several important and lasting popular literary genres. This course will explore the emergence and development of two of these: the Western and the “hard-boiled” variant of detective fiction. These two genres are notable for their popularity across media, and for their creation of unique and highly recognizable styles of American masculinity. We will examine the formal features of these two genres, consider the social and cultural context of their development, and explore their similarities and differences. We will also discuss how writers throughout the 20th and 21st centuries have employed the established genres of the Western and hard-boiled detective fiction for a variety of artistic purposes that extend and complicate the idea of genre itself.



Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Through attentive engagement with the course and course materials, you will

- learn about popular genre fiction in the twentieth and twenty-first century US
- deepen your knowledge of theories of literary genre, audience, and taste
- deepen your knowledge of American culture, literature, and history
- develop skills in literary interpretation, including close reading and contextual analysis
- develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, argumentation, and oral communication
- develop critical writing skills through the completion of academic research papers and informal online posts

Required Course Materials

The following books are required for the course. They are listed in the order in which we will read them. Other editions, including e-books, are acceptable.

- Zane Grey, RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE 0812966120
- Dashiell Hammett, RED HARVEST (ISBN 0679722610)
- Raymond Chandler, THE BIG SLEEP (0394758258)
- Chester Himes, IF HE HOLLERS LET HIM GO (1560254459)
- Vera Caspary, LAURA (068485385X)
- John Williams, BUTCHER'S CROSSING (9781590171981)
- Cormac McCarthy, NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (0307387135)
- Jonathan Lethem, MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN (0345803396)

A screening of *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (2018 d. Joel and Ethan Coen) will be arranged.

All other course materials—other required and supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

Canvas E-Learning

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments. Canvas e-learning can be accessed via the following link: "E-Learning Support Services" (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>). Click on the orange "log in to e-learning" button. You will then be asked to log in using your GatorLink username and password. If for some reason have trouble using your GatorLink account, go to the GatorLink website (<http://gatorlink.ufl.edu>).

For help with Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

Walk-in: HUB 132

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Any requests for accommodations (i.e. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

A Note on Course Content

Required texts in this course depict acts of violence, including sexual violence. If you ever feel the need to leave a class discussion, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually. You are welcome to discuss your personal reactions to the course material with me in office hours.

Course Requirements and Grading

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699

B 3.0 83-86 830-869 D 1.0 63-66 630-669

B- 2.67 80-82 800-829 D- 0.67 60-62 600-629

C+ 2.33 77-79 770-799 E 0.00 0-59 0-599

BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE

Attendance	100 points; 10% of final grade
Classroom participation	100 points; 10% of final grade
Online participation	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 1	300 points; 30% of final grade
paper 2	300 points; 30% of final grade

Attendance (10% of final grade)

Attendance is defined as attentive presence in the classroom. In other words, if you are very late to class or engage in non-class related activities during class time (sleeping, studying, texting, web browsing, etc.) you will be counted as absent.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. Otherwise, all absences will be regarded as unexcused.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

- 0-2 absences: maximum attendance grade: 100
- 3 absences: maximum attendance grade: 93
- 4 absences: maximum attendance grade: 89
- 5 absences: maximum attendance grade: 86
- 6 absences: maximum attendance grade: 82
- 7 absences: maximum attendance grade: 79
- 8 absences: maximum attendance grade: 76
- 9 absences: maximum attendance grade: 72
- 10 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

Classroom Participation (10% of final grade)

In this class, we will all learn by respectfully listening to and engaging with each others' ideas. It is therefore expected that students come to class prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day.

Students will be graded on the quality of their oral contributions to classroom discussion. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions. Poor attendance will adversely effect students' participation grade.

Online discussions (20% of final grade)

Students are expected to post weekly to the "Discussions" section of the Canvas course website. Posts should be about 100-300 words. They are due at 5 pm on Friday of the week for which they will get credit.

They can be responses to prompts from me, reflections on readings or class discussions, further research on a topic of interest to you, comments on other students' posts, or a space for developing paper topics. Students

are expected to maintain the same standards of respectful exchange that they are held to in class discussions.

The online discussions will be graded as follows:

- 100 = 12 posts
- 93 = 11 posts
- 89 = 10 posts
- 86 = 9 posts
- 82 = 8 posts
- 79 = 7 posts
- 76 = 6 posts
- 72 = 5 posts
- 69 = 4 posts
- 66 = 3 posts
- 62 = 2 posts
- 59 = 1 post
- 0 = 0 posts


Papers

Students will write two formal academic papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The paper assignments, including topics and guidelines, will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of March 1 and April 29, respectively.

Papers will be graded wholistically on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate explication of concepts and arguments; accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/  [\(http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/\)](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

(<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/> 

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). Plagiarism or any other violation of

the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/> [\(https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/\)](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/)

According to the Student Conduct Code,

"Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals> [\(https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/\)](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/> [\(https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/\)](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).



Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu [\(mailto:umatter@ufl.edu\)](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> [\(http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/\)](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/), and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> [\(http://www.police.ufl.edu/\)](http://www.police.ufl.edu/).

Academic Resources









- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu [\(mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu\)](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> [\(https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml/\)](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml/).
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/> [\(https://www.crc.ufl.edu/\)](https://www.crc.ufl.edu/).
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> [\(http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/\)](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/). Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>  [\(https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/\)](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>  [\(https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/\)](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/).

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

The schedule, located on the Canvas calendar, represents my current plans for readings and discussions. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change based on the interests and needs of the class as a whole. Any such changes will be communicated early, in class and via Canvas. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting the Canvas calendar and reading announcements.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 7, 2019	 Course introduction (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745792&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Jan 9, 2019	 What is Genre Fiction? (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745793&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Jan 11, 2019	 A History of Westerns, a history of detectives (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745794&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Jan 14, 2019	 Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745795&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Jan 16, 2019	 Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745796&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Jan 18, 2019	 Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745797&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Jan 21, 2019	 NO CLASS: MLK Holiday (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745642&include_contexts=course_361899)	12am
Wed Jan 23, 2019	 Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745798&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm

[event_id=745798&include_contexts=course_361899](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745798&include_contexts=course_361899))

Fri Jan 25, 2019



[Zane Grey, Riders of the Purple Sage](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745799&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745799&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Jan 28, 2019



[Dashiell Hammet, Red Harvest](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745800&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745800&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Wed Jan 30, 2019



[Dashiell Hammet, Red Harvest](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745801&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745801&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Feb 1, 2019



[Dashiell Hammet, Red Harvest](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745802&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745802&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Feb 4, 2019



[Dashiell Hammet, Red Harvest](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745803&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745803&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Wed Feb 6, 2019



[Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745804&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745804&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Feb 8, 2019



[Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745805&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745805&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Feb 11, 2019



[Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745806&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745806&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Wed Feb 13, 2019



[Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745807&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745807&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Feb 15, 2019



[Chester Himes, If He Hollers, Let Him Go](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745808&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745808&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Feb 18, 2019







[Chester Himes, If He Hollers, Let Him Go](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745809&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745809&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm



[Chester Himes, If He Hollers, Let Him Go](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745809&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745809&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Wed Feb 20, 2019	event_id=745810&include_contexts=course_361899	
Fri Feb 22, 2019	 Chester Himes, If He Hollers, Let Him Go (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745811&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Feb 25, 2019	 Chester Himes, If He Hollers, Let Him Go (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745814&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Feb 27, 2019	 Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain" (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745812&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 1, 2019	 Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain" (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745813&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
	 FIRST PAPER (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/361899/assignments/3734154)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 4, 2019	 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745662&include_contexts=course_361899)	12am
Wed Mar 6, 2019	 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745664&include_contexts=course_361899)	12am
Fri Mar 8, 2019	 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745665&include_contexts=course_361899)	12am
Mon Mar 11, 2019	 Vera Caspary, Laura (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745815&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 13, 2019	 Vera Caspary, Laura (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745816&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 15, 2019	 Vera Caspary, Laura (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745817&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Mar 18, 2019	 Vera Caspary, Laura (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745818&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 20, 2019	 John Williams, Butcher's Crossing (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745819&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Mar 22, 2019	 John Williams, Butcher's Crossing (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745820&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Mar 25, 2019	 John Williams, Butcher's Crossing (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745821&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Mar 27, 2019	 John Williams, Butcher's Crossing (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745822&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Mar 29, 2019	 John Williams, Butcher's Crossing (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745823&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 1, 2019	 Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745824&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 3, 2019	 Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745825&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Apr 5, 2019	 Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745826&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 8, 2019	 Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745827&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 10, 2019	 Jonathan Lethem, Motherless Brooklyn (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745828&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Fri Apr 12, 2019	 Jonathan Lethem, Motherless Brooklyn (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745829&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Mon Apr 15, 2019	 Jonathan Lethem, Motherless Brooklyn (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745830&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm
Wed Apr 17, 2019	 Jonathan Lethem, Motherless Brooklyn (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745831&include_contexts=course_361899)	11:45am to 12:35pm

Fri Apr 19, 2019



[Jonathan Lethem, Motherless Brooklyn](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745832&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745832&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Apr 22, 2019



[The Ballad of Buster Scruggs \(d. Coen Brothers\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745833&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745833&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Wed Apr 24, 2019



[The Ballad of Buster Scruggs \(d. Coen Brothers\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745834&include_contexts=course_361899)
(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=745834&include_contexts=course_361899)

11:45am to 12:35pm

Mon Apr 29, 2019



[SECOND PAPER](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/361899/assignments/3734156)
(<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/361899/assignments/3734156>)

due by 12pm



[Roll Call Attendance](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/361899/assignments/3770327)
(<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/361899/assignments/3770327>)