

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
2014-15

## History 2148A

### Police Work and Forensics in Victorian Britain

**Instructor:** Allyson N. May  
**Office:** Lawson Hall 1205  
**E-mail:** [amay6@uwo.ca](mailto:amay6@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:30-2:30 pm  
Or by appointment

This lecture course explores the late Victorian British world, using the short stories of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose fictional 'consulting detective' has enjoyed an afterlife that would have astonished his creator, as a springboard. Criminal justice subjects include the real-life history of policing and detection, the nineteenth-century obsession with murder, the evolution of crime fiction, and the famously unsolved case of Jack the Ripper. We will also use the Holmes stories as points of entry for discussion of late Victorian empire; medicine, drink, and drugs; and male friendship. The course concludes with a brief examination of the ways in which those stories have been adapted, from the twentieth-century to the present day.

Students will write a book report based on the first Holmes story, an in-class mid-term test and a final exam.

#### Learning outcomes:

On completion of this course students will:

- Be familiar with the basic contours of late Victorian society
- Possess an understanding of the history of Victorian policing and detection
- Be aware of the discrepancies between crime and policing in the real world and their fictional representation
- Have gained insight into the way history is reinterpreted and stories retold and remediated over time

#### Required texts:

Haia Shpayer-Makov, *The Ascent of the Detective: Police Sleuths in Victorian and Edwardian England* (Oxford, 2011)

Students will also be assigned Sherlock Holmes stories; these can be accessed online.

### Written assignment:

Students will write a c. 2000-word report on the original Sherlock Holmes story: 'A Study in Scarlet', exploring the fictional portrayal of an amateur sleuth and his relationship with professional detectives. A paper copy of this assignment is due in class on Monday 6 October; electronic submission via Turnitin is also mandatory. **Extensions will NOT be granted unless the request is processed through Academic Counselling, in advance of the due date.** A late penalty of 2% per day, including weekends, will be assigned if the paper and electronic copies of the report are not received on the due date.

### Grading scheme

Written assignment (due 6 Oct.):	30%
In-class mid-term (20 Oct.):	30 %
Final exam:	40%

Academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

**Appeal of grades:** Any request for reconsideration of a grade on a course assignment **MUST** take the form of a written statement outlining the reasons for your request (minimum 250 words). Please bear in mind that an appealed grade can be lowered, left unchanged or raised.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It will be reported to the university authorities and result in failure and academic sanctions. Assignments must be written in your own words: any phrases, sentences, or passages lifted from someone else's text must appear in quotation marks. Sources for both quoted material and ideas must be acknowledged via footnotes or endnotes.

**Please note:** Electronic devices may be used in class for the taking of notes. Disrespectful or disruptive use of such devices will result in a request to turn the device off; you may also be asked to leave the classroom. Filming of lectures is not permitted. **No electronic devices may be used during the mid-term test or the final exam.**

### Lecture schedule

- 1 (8 Sept.) Introduction  
Haia Shpayer-Makov, *The Ascent of the Detective: Police Sleuths in Victorian and Edwardian England* (Oxford, 2011), pp. 1-10
- 2 (15 Sept.) Policing in Britain: The background  
Shpayer-Makov, pp.13-31

- 3 (22 Sept.) Policing and detection: Scotland Yard  
Shpayer-Makov, pp. 32-60
- :
- 4 (29 Sept.) Class and detection  
Shpayer-Makov, pp. 117-21, 248-61
- 5(6 Oct.) Crime fiction: The historical background  
Shpayer-Makov, pp. 226-48  
*Written assignment due in class*

### **Thanksgiving**

- 6 (20 Oct.) In-class mid-term
- 7 (27 Oct.) Drink and drugs in Victorian society  
Conan Doyle, 'The adventure of the cardboard box'
- 8 (3 Nov.) Late Victorian medicine  
Conan Doyle, 'The adventure of the resident patient'
- 9 (10 Nov.) Holmes and Watson: A bromance? Homosexuality, Homosociability  
Conan Doyle, 'A scandal in Bohemia'
- 10 (17 Nov.) 'Centre' and 'periphery': Late Victorian Empire  
Conan Doyle, 'The adventure of the crooked man'
- 11 (24 Nov.) *The Strand* magazine: The late Victorian periodical press  
Shpayer-Makov, pp. 156-205
- 12 (1 Dec.) The afterlife: Holmes revised  
In this session we will look at excerpts from film and television adaptations of the Holmes stories, and discuss how the originals have been adapted to reflect the changed historical realities of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the

event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method

of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)