



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of English

ENGL-163-001
Intro to Literary Traditions: Noir in Film and Literature
Summer 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Michael Stewart
(b)	Office Hours:	By appointment
(c)	Location:	Paul Building, Rm 330
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3357
(e)	Email:	stewartm@camosun.bc.ca (This is the best way to contact me)

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Reading and Writing:

- Explain how literary traditions change with time and affect creation of new literary texts;
- Identify different literary forms, genres, and historical periods;
- Describe the complex variety of literary study and literature's relationship to formal, cultural, social, political and historical contexts;
- Identify various approaches to literary texts and draw connections between different texts;
- Debate canon formation and challenges to the canon;
- Use critical, literary terminology;
- Use a critical approach with appropriate language and terminology;
- Argue for various interpretations;
- Evaluate specific literary techniques;
- Employ close reading and argumentation skills;
- Use a scholarly essay form, including: a thesis; topic sentences; argument and/or analysis; use of quotations; unified, coherent paragraphs and transitions; rhetorical strategies appropriate for purpose and audience; effective introductions and conclusions;
- Produce writing under exam or exam-like conditions;
- Write clear, concise, effective prose, and know how to identify as well as correct common mechanical and grammatical errors.
- Evaluate secondary sources and integrate where applicable;
- Write persuasive arguments in scholarly, academic essay format, using MLA documentation.

2. Information Literacy Skills:

- Determine the nature and extent of the information needed.
- Know and use what information resources are available, in different formats.
- Use print and electronic resources effectively and efficiently.

- Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, currency and other criteria.
 - Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation.
 - Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.
3. Discussion/Reflection:
- Discuss and analyze literature in class;
 - Identify a variety of literary approaches and/or theories that can be taken towards a text;
 - Articulate one's position in a critical debate of ideas.
 - Engage respectfully with different interpretations.
 - Reflect on one's own writing for continuous improvement.

3. Required Materials

Chandler, Raymond. *The Big Sleep*. Vintage, 1992 [1939].

Vermette, Katherena. *The Break*. Anansi, 2016.

Other clips, films and readings published on D2L and on library reserve.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Wilna Thomas Building, Room 101

Schedule subject to change.

WEEK 1 (May 7 & 9) Introduction: What is <i>Noir</i> ?	Watch: <i>Double Indemnity</i> (1944)
WEEK 2 (May 14 & 16) Noir Antecedents 1: The Tragic and psychoanalysis	Watch: Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> Read: E.T.A. Hoffmann, "The Sandman" (1816) Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (1919) Assignment 1 (7%): One Perfect Shot
WEEK 3 (May 21 & 23) Noir antecedents 2: German Expressionism and Detective fiction	Watch: <i>The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari</i> (1919) Read: Edgar Allen Poe, "The Murders of the Rue Morgue" (1841) Raymond Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i> (1939)
WEEK 4 (May 28 & 30) Back to the classics: What is <i>Noir</i> 2?	MIDTERM (20%): May 28, in class Watch: Clips from postwar American <i>Noir</i> films
WEEK 5 (June 4 & 6) Neo-Noir: Genre mixing	Watch: <i>Fargo</i> (1996) Assignment 2 (13%): Classic <i>Noir</i> scene analysis
WEEK 6 (June 11 & 13) Neo-Noir 2	Read: <i>The Break</i> (2016) In-class writing (10%): Comparison, <i>Fargo</i> and <i>The Break</i>
WEEK 7 (June 18 & 21) What is <i>Noir</i> ? (fin)	Assignment 3 (15%): Group presentation: Mixing <i>Noir</i> Assignment 4 (20%): Literary essay: What is <i>Noir</i> ?

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Assignment	Deadline	Weighting
One Perfect Shot (300 words)	May 14	7%
Midterm	May 28	20%
Classic Noir Scene analysis (800 words)	June 6	13%
In-class writing: Comparison (<i>Fargo</i> & <i>The Break</i>)	June 13	10%
Group Presentation: Mixing <i>Noir</i>	June 21	15%
Final Essay (1500 words)	June 24	25%
Class Participation and Discussion	All. Course. Long.	10%

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

7. Additional Comments

- All readings must be completed **before the class assigned to them**. Bring the readings with you to class. **Bring the readings with you to class.**
- **Participation is worth a hefty 10%**, so please bring your brilliant ideas and observations to class too. Attending class, preparing well and bringing an inquisitive, generous and energetic spirit not only shows all of us you respect the learning environment, it will put you in a great position to succeed on the assignments. This will be the easiest 10% you make all year so make the most of it. And, of course, the more we participate, the more fun we all will have. It will be so much fun I can't stand it.
- **An (important) note on attendance.** This course is not comprised simply of assignments to check off. It also includes a number of classroom hours (just under 40, in fact) where you are expected to listen, digest and reflect on the knowledge we all bring to the learning experience. When you miss a class, not only do you miss out on the material, your colleagues miss out on your contributions and receptiveness.

Obviously, you all have lives outside of this classroom and the unexpected waits for us all. **I promise I will meet any note that you must miss a class with compassion and accommodation.** That said, to reflect the importance of attendance, **I reserve the right to refuse any assignments by a student with more than 25% (i.e. three) unexcused absences.**

- **Start working right away.** Life comes at you fast. And by life, I mean deadlines. Don't procrastinate, do the readings and don't underestimate how long an assignment will take. If you get a disappointing grade on an early assignment, make adjustments – don't assume the same level of work will get you a better mark later. Spoiler: it won't.
- **Deadlines:** Deadlines are organized to facilitate marking and returning papers in a timely manner, and to give you the greatest benefit from feedback for future assignments. They also establish that I am a human, with a life, and give me some surety around which I may organize this life.

However, **there are no late penalties for this class.** This is to recognize that you, too, are humans with

lives, and that sometimes those get in the way of coursework. I want to give you the best chance to succeed in the course, but please respect the above.

Late work may not be handed back in a timely manner, and it will not receive feedback, but it will be accepted without penalty and question.

(IMPORTANT EXCEPTION: No work can be accepted after June 24.)

- **Submit assignments over D2L Dropbox or in person, on paper from trees.** Do not email me assignments.
- Smartphones and laptops can be a powerful learning tool (and I make use of them in class occasionally myself). But they need not be within arm's reach at all times. As a courtesy to everyone else in the class, **please keep all electronic devices off your desk (and laps) unless immediately in use**—and pay attention to whoever is speaking.
- Any submission of work that is not the student's or work that is not appropriately attributed to the original source constitutes plagiarism. **The college considers plagiarism a serious offence** and any attempt to deceive the instructor with plagiarized work will be met with serious consequences, which will at a minimum include a zero on the assignment and could include an F in the course.
- **Make use of my office hours and email.** It is my sincere hope that we can work together to become better writers and thinkers. A 5-10 minute chat in my office about a paper, an essay or a topic can do wonders. If you are unclear about assignments, about a grade, about anything, visit my office hours or write me a thoughtful email. This will not only help your grade it will help me become a better teacher.
- Any student who faces challenges **securing their food or housing** and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the appropriate Camosun services (listed below) for support. If you are comfortable in doing so, please notify me of any challenges you're facing. This will enable me to accommodate your challenge and provide any support I am able.

8. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.