

LLC SYLLABUS
PASSPORT TO CRIME – AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL CRIME FICTION

When: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., September 12, 2017 – November 14, 2017

Where: Temple Beth-El

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Course Description: In part as a result of the huge success of Stieg Larsson’s Millennium series of crime novels (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, etc.*), there has been a surge of interest in international crime fiction. In this course, we will explore the crime fiction *genre*, widely considered to have originated with an American, Edgar Allan Poe. We will use an anthology of mystery stories by international crime writers from regions and countries as diverse as Scandinavia (of course), Russia, Brazil, Spain, Japan, Argentina, and Malawi to compare how authors have used the various forms of crime fiction and see what insights the stories give about their cultural settings. We will also provide additional stories and supplementary materials to illuminate the *genre* and explore the challenges of translating fiction.

Format: Participants will read selected stories and lead a discussion of their chosen story or stories to help the group gain a deeper appreciation of the story itself and its national setting. We have grouped the stories by geographical region. Participants are encouraged to use supplementary materials and media that they feel will bring additional life to the story. For our discussions of fiction in different international settings, these materials may include photos of locales, information about social and legal context, and information about authors and translators. We are providing with this syllabus a list of crime fiction story types, and questions to consider as you prepare your presentations, including potential areas for supplementary research. By Wednesday of the week before your presentation, please provide us with a list of questions for the class to consider as they read the stories.

Resources: *Passport to Crime: The Finest Mystery Stories from International Crime Writers, 2007*, edited by Janet Hutchings, is our text. We will provide supplementary materials on selected topics.

COURSE CALENDAR

Key: “a.” and “b.” indicate the first and second hour.

1. WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 12

- a. Introductions, etc. and David Schmid introductory lecture
- b. Discussion of Poe stories (“Murders in the Rue Morgue” and “The Purloined Letter”); [We will distribute “The Tell-Tale Heart” for discussion Week Two.]

2. WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 19

- a. France: “Who’s Afraid of Ed Garpo?” (and “The Tell-Tale Heart”)
- b. France: “The Call of the Lorelei”
France: “Zero Tolerance”

3. WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 26

- a. Germany: “Silk Road”
Germany: “Fisherman’s Friend”
- b. Germany: “Wedding in Voerde”
Germany: “Full Moon”
Germany: “German Summer”

4. WEEK FOUR – OCTOBER 3

- a. Netherlands: “The Red Mercedes”
Netherlands: “DeKok and the Hammer Blow”
Netherlands: “Bloody Hot”
- b. Italy: “The Winds”
Italy: “Victor Scarpazo, or the End of the Pursuit”
Greece: “With a Little Help From Your Friends”
Bulgaria: “L”

5. WEEK FIVE – OCTOBER 10

- a. Norway: “Moonglow”
Norway: “There Are No Pockets in Our Graveclothes”
- b. Norway: “A Deadly Joke”
Russia: “Table Talk”

6. WEEK SIX – OCTOBER 17

- a. David Schmid on Nordic Noir
The international crime fiction genre
- b. Denmark (*Copenhagen Noir*): “When the Time Came”
Sweden (*Stockholm Noir*): “Still in Kallhäll”

7. WEEK SEVEN – OCTOBER 24

- a. Malawi: “Heroic Proportions”
Argentina: “Ramon Acuna’s Time”
- b. Brazil: “Winning the Game”
Cuba: “Guilty”

8. WEEK EIGHT – OCTOBER 31

- a. Translation of crime fiction [Discussion materials will be provided]
- b. Japan: “Precision of the Agent of Death”

9. WEEK NINE – NOVEMBER 7

- a. Japan: “Eighteenth Summer”
- b. Japan: “An Urban Legend Puzzle”

10. WEEK TEN – NOVEMBER 14

- a. Italy (*Venice Noir*): “A Closed Book”
United States (*Providence Noir*): “All in the Family”
- b. Party