**Option Name:** The Art of Murder: Crime Fiction from the 19th to 21st century.

**Lecturer Name:** Dr. Clare Clarke

**ECTS Weighting:** 10

**Semester/Term Taught:** Hilary Term, one term option

**Learning Outcomes:**

Trace the emergence and development of the detective genre through the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries

• Identify and examine key themes in 19th-21st century detective fiction

• Discuss the themes and concerns of the set texts in relation to their social, historical, and political contexts

• Close read the primary texts paying attention to form, structure, language

• think critically about the ways in which the detective genre depicts criminality and heroism in terms of class, gender and race

• trace and interrogate developments in the history of crime fiction criticism, examining a number of key approaches– Formalist, Marxist, Foucauldian, Historicist

• Demonstrate skills in research, oral and written communication, and teamwork, via presentations and group discussion

**Option Content:**

Week 1: Introduction: texts, contexts, theory


• Week 4: Second Golden Age/Clue-Puzzle: Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express* (1934)
• Week 5: Hardboiled: Dashiell Hammett, *The Maltese Falcon* (1930)
• Week 6: Noir: Patricia Highsmith, *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1955)
• Week 7: READING WEEK
• Week 8: Race: Chester Himes, *A Rage in Harlem* (1957)
• Week 12: Essay consultations

**Assessment Details:**

• An essay of 4000-5000 words [100%] to be submitted on the deadline outlined in Sophister handbook [after end of term]

In this essay students will write about ONE OR MORE primary texts studied in the course