1. KentVision Code and title of the module

ENGL6580 American Crime Fiction

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Arts and Humanities, School of English

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 6

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

30 (15 ECTS)

## Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Term 1 or Term 2

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

Optional to the following courses: BA English Literature; BA English Literature and Creative Writing; BA Drama and English Literature; BA English Literature and English Language and Linguistics; BA English Literature and Film

Also available as an elective module

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes.

## On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

* 1. Read and respond critically to a range of American crime fiction
  2. Relate their reading to developments in social and political history
  3. Explore a range of theoretical approaches to literary texts
  4. Think critically about the interrelationship of cultural trends in literature, film and television
  5. Understand and evaluate narrative form in fiction, film and television
  6. Interrogate distinctions between high and low culture
  7. Interrogate and understand contemporary culture in the twenty-first century

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

* 1. Demonstrate their abilities to analyse texts critically and make comparisons across a range of reading
  2. Demonstrate their abilities to articulate and communicate coherent critical arguments in a variety of methods
  3. Understand and interrogate various critical approaches and the theoretical assumptions that underpin these approaches
  4. Demonstrate their abilities to carry out independent research

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module explores the history and practice of crime fiction in the United States from

Edgar Allan Poe in the 1840s through to the present day. Crime fiction will be understood

broadly to encompass a range of generic categories such as detective, hardboiled and police procedural novels and stories. Attention will also be paid to developments in cinema

and television which parallel those in fiction, such as film noir and the contemporary cop

series. Strong emphasis will be placed on historically informed reading and students will be

encouraged to relate the close analysis of texts to shifts in narrative form as well as the

establishment and transgression of generic conventions.

The study of American crime fiction reaches directly into the heart of many of the key

concerns of undergraduate English. Questions about the distinctions between high and low

culture, the seductiveness of particular narrative forms, and dialectic relations between

literary and social history will all be addressed. Students will have the opportunity to read

crime fiction alongside elements of Marxist, narrative and genre theory. Eventually they will

be able to consider how crime fiction has evolved in its engagement with questions of

race, gender and sexuality in the United States, from the construction of white masculinity in the hardboiled genre to the policing of black communities in the neoliberal city.

## Reading list

## The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

## The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 268

Contact Hours: 32

Total: 300

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Essay 1 3,000 words 40%

Essay 2 3,000 words 40%

Seminar participation 20%

* 1. Reassessment methods

100% coursework (4,500 words)

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods and methods of assessment

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Seminars | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Essays | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Seminar Participation | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

## Inclusive module design

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

This module is internationalised in that its topic is American crime fiction. It requires students from a range of nationalities to consider the particular context of the United States as a site of cultural and literary production. Furthermore, the module consistently treats the theme of transnationalism, examining how American texts and authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Chester Himes and Patricia Highsmith, engage with ideas of Europe.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised  (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 07/02/17 | Minor | September 2017 | 6, 7, 10-12 | No |
| 28/02/19 | Major | September 2019 | 6,9,12,13,14 | No |
| 21/12/2021 | Minor | 2022/23 | 13 | No |