

Veranstalter:	Claudia Heuer, M. A.
Thema:	Women Detectives and Heroines: Is Crime Fiction a 'Feminized' Genre? [AA-A2, ENG-6/a, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-543
Zeit:	2st., Mi 14 – 16
Raum:	Phil 1250
Beginn:	4. April 2011

Kommentar zur Veranstaltung:

Looked down upon for most of the 20th century as genre writing and light entertainment by scholars of literature and the general public alike, crime fiction is now acknowledged as a constituent of contemporary culture. It has been said that its main concern lies with a breach and the subsequent re-establishment of social order. As such it has long been a masculinist genre with stereotypical roles for women characters, feeding off and perpetuating myths about femininity. Surprisingly, this hostile environment has seen the emergence of an abundance of women's and/or feminist re-writings. "From the unlikely soil of the white-male-centred private-eye form have sprung two of the most dramatic developments of the last thirty years," writes Martin Priestman in the introduction to the *Cambridge Companion to Crime Fiction* about the development after women writers and writers of colour entered the scene. In effect, women writers have dramatically altered the face of the genre. This course is going to retrace some of the important steps in this development, beginning with the Golden Age at the start of the 20th century. Basing our investigation on the notion that genre can be seen as a form of intertextuality, we are going to look at the way in which women writers and their characters negotiate genre conventions and gender roles. Required reading: Agatha Christie, *4.50 from Paddington*, P.D. James, *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman*, Liza Cody, *Bucket Nut*, Val McDermid, *Common Murder*, and Stella Duffy *Mouths of Babes*. Optional reading: Dorothy Sayers, *Gaudy Night* and Denise Mina, *Garnet Hill*. All books are available in paperback editions.

Course requirements (*Scheinanforderungen*):

- (1) regular and active participation (no unexcused absences)
- (2) oral presentation and handout
- (3) term paper (10-12 pages)

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail