

Veranstalter.....	Prof. Dr. Peter Hühn
Thema.....	Studies in British and American Mystery Fiction [AA-A2, AA-A3, ENG-6, ENG-7, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Introduction to English Language Studies
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-543
Zeit.....	2st., Fr 10–12
Raum.....	Phil 1250
Beginn.....	ab 29.10.10

Course description:

This seminar is intended as an introduction to the history of mystery fiction and its sub-genres (“soft- and hard-boiled” detective novels, crime novels and spy novels) as well as to the methodology of analysing such novels. The analysis will be based on a specifically narratological approach, i.e. make practical use of narrative theory, by applying such categories as perspective, agency, the dynamics and interaction of plot-lines and eventfulness – a method which is also applicable to fiction in general. Examples are taken both from American and from British literature. The course may therefore count as part of a module either in British or in American literature. The following texts will be discussed: E. A. Poe’s “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”, Agatha Christie’s *Curtain*, Dashiell Hammett’s *The Glass Key*, Raymond Chandler’s *The Big Sleep*, Patricia Highsmith’s *Ripley’s Game* and John le Carré’s *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. All participants are required to read Poe’s seminal detective story “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” *before* the beginning of the semester, i.e. come well-prepared to the first session of the seminar (Poe’s text will be available in *Agora*).

Introductory criticism: J. Cawelti. *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance* (Chicago, 1976); W. Schmid. *Narratology: An Introduction* (Berlin, 2010); P. Hühn. “The Detective as Reader: Narrativity and Reading Concepts in Detective Fiction”, *Modern Fiction Studies* 33 (1987), 451-66 (available in *Agora*).

The seminar will begin on October 29 (second week). The session of the first week will be postponed to a later date.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Nach Vereinbarung
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	Nach Vereinbarung