



COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

EN1220(B2): Texts and Contexts – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sally Jones

PHONE: (780) 539-2235

OFFICE: C426

E-MAIL: sjones@nwpolytech.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Wednesday 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will explore a specific issue (to be determined by the instructor) using a variety of genres and media. Instruction will include essay writing skills. Because the course content will vary among instructors, it is strongly recommended that students consult an academic advisor or the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for more specific descriptions regarding the course focus.

PREREQUISITE(S):

None

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The Secret Adversary – Agatha Christie

Clouds of Witness – Dorothy Sayers

Note: Physical copies of the novels are required for in-class work throughout the course. All required novels are available at the NWP Bookstore. If you use other editions, please make certain they are all unabridged. Supplementary readings will be posted to our course site.



DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus. Course work includes lectures, class discussions, group work, in-class quizzes, online assignments, film, and individual work, both written and oral.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to

- use their writing to analyze thoughts and to express ideas effectively
- use their writing to respond critically to another piece of writing or prompt
- plan, outline, and draft essays that develop a specific thesis
- revise a text, adjusting style and content for specific purposes and audiences
- proofread writing for surface errors and correct the majority of these errors

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

There will be several unscheduled reading quizzes during this course, and in terms of preparation, these will only require careful reading of the day's assigned text. A final examination will be scheduled by the registrar, and students must not make travel plans before this exam date is available.

Reading Quizzes	20%
Writing Exercises	10%
1 st Essay (in class)	20%
2 nd Essay (in class)	20%
Final Examination	30%

*All assignments will be discussed thoroughly in class, and guideline handouts will be distributed in class and made available on our course site.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

(a separate detailed daily reading schedule will also be distributed in class)

- Weeks 1-5: ORIGINS: Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle
 ONLY ONE AMONG YOU: G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy Sayers
 THE LOCKED ROOM: John Dickson Carr, Edmund Crispin
- Weeks 6-8: First novel study: Agatha Christie, *The Secret Adversary*
- Weeks 9-12: Second novel study: Dorothy Sayers, *Clouds of Witness*
- Weeks 13-15: THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE: Emmuska Orczy, Ellery Queen
 HARDBOILED: Dashiell Hammett, Rex Stout, Raymond Chandler

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. This is a **pen and paper class**; no phones or laptops are permitted during class.
2. Essays will *not* be accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been approved by the Professor. Penalties of 10% per day late may be applicable in these cases. At the discretion of the instructor, essays may be assigned in an exam environment, without electronic devices of any kind. No essay may be submitted by e-mail.
3. Quizzes cannot be made up, but in the case of a *verifiable medical emergency*, with appropriate medical documentation, may be excused.
4. Students will not receive credit for any work or deadline missed because of an unexcused absence. If students are absent the day of a scheduled presentation (group or individual) they will receive a 0 for the presentation or project.

5. The reading outline is subject to change according to time constraints and other considerations; therefore, students are responsible for any changes that are announced in class whether they are in attendance or not.

6. Please keep a copy of all written work. In the event of theft or loss, the student is required to submit a duplicate copy.

7. Students are expected to check the D2L myClass site for this course before each class to stay informed; in the event of a class cancellation, the announcement will be posted there.

8. Students must produce their own writing, without using Chat-GPT or any other AI or language bot. In order to receive a grade, all submissions must be entirely the work of their authors. Academic integrity and honesty will be vigorously upheld. Any academic misconduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with Northwestern Polytechnic policy.

9. Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Apple watches, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

10. Students are advised to read the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar and Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy for the rules regarding Registration, Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This course will explore the early period of Detective Fiction, focusing on its beginnings as an elegant art of detection involving locked doors and complex puzzles. We will examine the formation of the formal genre, including the literary "rules" agreed upon by the early Detection Club, whose members notably included Dorothy Sayers, G.K. Chesterton, and Agatha Christie. From there, questions surrounding the modern fascination with crime as entertainment will be considered, investigating society's obsession with the darkest side of humanity and the corresponding impulse to discover, reveal, and punish.

