This semester's work will further explore last semester's questions on art, culture, and society as we examine popular literary and dramatic forms, past and present. In addition, by carrying out and presenting major independent projects, students will have the opportunity to further investigate issues of special interest to them suggested by all those we have examined throughout the year.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

By doing the required reading, participating in class, and carrying out the assignments for the course, students will learn about the genres of gothic horror, detection/mystery, and the western in the period from 1890 to the present. They will gain skill in doing primary research (based on analysis of texts, personal observation and analysis of other materials, and interviews) and secondary research (the kind of research done in the library and on the internet), and will complete a major project based on these varied investigations. Additionally, it is hoped that "outcomes" of the course will present themselves throughout the students' lives, often in unexpected ways. As Dean Griffith reminds us, "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted" (Einstein).

**This syllabus is subject to change. Please see WebCT for the latest version.**

**Texts:**

Margaret Battin, et al., Puzzles about Art (St. Martin's)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Stories, Volume I (Bantam)

P. D. James, Innocent Blood (Scribner)

Bram Stoker, Dracula (Broadview)

Jane Tompkins, West of Everything (coursepack)

Julio Cortázar, "Blow-Up" (coursepack)
The first four books listed are available in the BBC Bookstore. The coursepack is available for purchase at the copy center in WUC.

**WebCT:**

This class will have its own WebCT site that we will use for the posting of useful web links and to communicate with each other. Logon instructions may be found at webct.fiu.edu. **Students will be responsible for all announcements made via WebCT and are asked to respond to them on the system.**

**Assignments:**

Readings should be completed by the dates indicated in the syllabus below. This is above all a discussion course, and the best discussions take place when we're all well prepared. To encourage timely and thoughtful reading, students are asked to keep journals about what they have read. These need be only a page in length for each assignment, and may contain thoughts, observations, questions (even the most mundane), or anything else that strikes you in relation to the reading. Anything you have written in your journal may be brought up in class discussion, and questions certainly should be.

On days when the reading assignment is marked with an asterisk (*), students will hand in their journal pages for that assignment (so journals are best kept in a looseleaf notebook or folder). Each journal entry must be handed in by the start of the class for which it is due; **late journals will not be accepted.** These pages will be read by the instructor but not graded. A grade (worth 25% of your grade for the course) will be computed based simply on the number of journals you hand in: 5-6 will earn an A; 3-4 a B; 2 a C; 1 a D; and none an F. One one-page report on a New York Times article (as done last semester) may take the place of a missing journal.

Graded assignments include a final project and presentation, the proposal for the final project (both discussed below), and one 5-7-page paper based on articles in the historical database of the New York Times. This paper will be worth 15% of your grade in the course; further details will follow.

**The Final Project:** This will be the culmination of your work for the year. You have probably already begun to think about the topics that most interested you in the fall semester; additional areas will be introduced in the spring, through classwork and the article presentations. Think of a topic that you truly want to investigate, prepare a project to explore it, and present your project to the class in a 30-40 minute presentation and to the instructor in written form, with supporting materials. I will discuss some examples in class.

In order to be sure you have chosen a project that you can carry out effectively, all students are required to hand in a detailed project proposal on Jan. 27. The proposal will set out the question you seek to answer, the methods you will use in finding the answer, and how you intend to structure the final report and presentation. The project proposal is worth 10% of your grade. The project presentation is worth 10%, and the project report, as turned in, is worth 35%.
Class participation will count for 5% of your grade in the course, but will be worth much more in terms of what you will gain from class discussions.

Attendance: Faithful attendance is strongly advised, as are active and thoughtful participation in class discussion. In a discussion class such as this one, absent students by definition fail to contribute to an important part of the learning experience. Students whose absences are judged excessive will receive low grades in class participation.

Plagiarism is defined as submitting as your own something written in whole or in part by someone else. It is a serious offense and, if confirmed, could result in failure in the course. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the pages of the FIU Student Handbook which deal with academic misconduct in all forms and include a complete definition of plagiarism. The FIU Code of Academic Integrity is linked to your WebCT homepage for this course.

Reading Assignments: (Readings are to be done before class; films will be viewed in class.)

1/6 Puzzles about Art, "Creativity and Fidelity" (105-145);* Introduction to this half of the course.

1/13 Visit to FIU Sculpture Park, University Park campus

1/20 Dracula (first half: 29-226)*

1/27 Project Proposal due (10%); Dracula (second half: 227-419); Dracula in film

2/3 Doyle, A Study in Scarlet, "A Scandal in Bohemia," "Charles Augustus Milverton"*

2/10 Periodical Essay due (15%); discussion of articles found.

2/17 Innocent Blood*

2/24 West of Everything, 3-128*; Film: Shane / Thelma and Louise

3/2 Film: Blow-Up (read Cortázar's "Blow-Up," in coursepack)*

3/9 Project presentations (10%).

3/16 Project presentations.

Spring Break

3/30 Honors Excellence Lecture, Biscayne Bay Campus: Lynne Burke, New York Bureau Chief of the Washington Post

4/6 Class cancelled.

4/13 Final Project due (35%); Project presentations.