

Hard-Boiled Fiction and Film Noir

UHON 222-004 | W | 10:00-12:30 | SHC 16 | 25067

Fulfills A&S Group V: Humanities

Steve Brewer

Crime fiction and films reflect society's ills, forcing us to recognize the travails of the under-class and the presence of evil in the world. From Prohibition through the Atomic Age, authors and film makers used their art to represent the disorder and disaffection of the day. In this seminar, we will study how crime is portrayed in pulp fiction of the 1920-50s and how film noir took over the genre after World War II. We'll also look at how they continue to influence today's treatment of crime in print and picture.

Readings

"Dark City: The Lost World of Film Noir" by E. Muller, St. Martin's Press

"Hard-Boiled: An Anthology of American Crime Stories," edited by Pronzini/Adrian, Oxford University Press

Requirements

Participation in weekly class discussions, a couple of brief papers/oral presentations, and two longer papers (max. 10 pp), one on an approved film noir viewed outside of class and one on an approved contemporary crime novel.

About the Instructor

Steve Brewer is the author of more than 20 books, including the recent crime novels CALA-BAMA and FIREPOWER. A graduate of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, he was an award-winning journalist for 22 years before turning to fiction full-time. He also wrote a nationally syndicated humor column for a decade. More at www.stevebrewer.us.com.

200-Levels