



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
ENGLISH

Crime fiction: Literary origins and classics

Kriminallitteratur: ursprung och klassiker

Course code: ENGCF1

Credits: 7.5

Education level: First cycle

Progressive specialisation: First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Approved by

Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences, 01 September 2026

Effective from

Spring semester 2027

Entry requirements

General entry requirements plus upper secondary level English 6 or English level 2. An equivalence assessment can be made.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. give an account of the main features of the historical development of English crime fiction,
2. give an account of the conventions of crime fiction,
3. give an account of and apply theoretical perspectives on crime fiction, and
4. conduct basic analysis of crime fiction.

Content

The course provides an introduction to English crime fiction and its historical development. The course offers an overview of the development of the genre. Students read key works in the form of predecessors to the genre as well as significant and transformative classics within the genre. The focus is on historical and contextual aspects, as well as the study of specific texts.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminars. The course includes mandatory written assignments. Towards the end of the course, students work on an independent project reviewed in a seminar.

Reading list

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual written assignments and an independent project reviewed in a seminar.

If a student has been granted study support by Karlstad University due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to offer an adapted examination or allow the student to complete the examination through alternative means.

Grades

One of the grades Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.