

COURSE INFORMATION	
<b>EUPeace Alliance University</b>	University of Marburg
<b>Course Title</b>	Contemporary U.S.-American Crime Fiction
<b>Department and/or Faculty</b>	American Studies Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
<b>Course Code</b>	LV-10-008-543
<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Course Modality</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curricular <input type="checkbox"/> Non-curricular	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Synchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Both (A/S)ynchronous
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory
<b>Date</b>	Summer semester 2025, April - July
<b>Language(s) of Instruction</b>	English
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle
<b>Course Instructor</b>	Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle
TARGET AUDIENCE	
<b>Suitable as Pre-Service Teacher Training Course</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-primary <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Lower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Upper <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary	
<b>Suitable as In-Service Professional Development Course</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-primary <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Lower <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Upper <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary	
<b>Suitable for non-student body</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TYPE – WORKLOAD – RECOGNITION	
<b>Number of hours</b>	360
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ECTS Credits</b>	12
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Certificate</b>	
COURSE DESCRIPTION (EN/L1 [if taught in L1])	
<b>Content</b> Why has crime fiction always been so popular and continues to be so today, even in various kinds of media? What are features of crime fiction that have fascinated people for centuries? Why can we (or not) say that “[c]rime fiction is the new rock n’ roll” (Ken Bruen)? In what forms does crime fiction come? What does Denise Mina imply when she claims: “Crime fiction is the fiction of social history. Societies get the crimes they deserve”? In this seminar, we will first investigate briefly the history of crime fiction in the United States; second, short introductions to the genre of crime fiction and to the cultural work they do or can do as part of popular culture will serve as starting points for, third, new critical, new historicist, and feminist readings of individual examples of the genre. Fourth, a form of a Marxist approach will help us understand the economic ideas of popular culture in general, and crime fiction in particular. As Linwood Barclay once said, “[c]rime fiction makes money.” Fifth, which roles do gender and ethnicity play in the writing, production, and reading processes of crime fiction? What does it mean when we talk about women’s, feminist, or ethnic crime fiction? Sixth, what are some recent forms of crime fiction? Which media are involved in the distribution process? Generally, we will use genre-specific	

characteristics of crime fiction as well as crime fiction's embeddedness in and engagement with socio-cultural, legal, and political developments. This entanglement allows us to potentially recognize and understand violence (in many forms) as a key concept in U.S.-American culture that is also visible in phrases such as "regeneration through violence" (Richard Slotkin) and "contradictory violence" (Nicole Waller). Moreover, the fascination with the mysterious, the riddle-solving, and the desire for law and order will reveal to be key ingredients of human nature. We will look at both crime fiction written by women and crime TV (or Netflix or Amazon Prime) series.

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### **Competences & Learning Objectives**

This class will allow students to approach crime narratives with genre-specific knowledge. In addition to learning how to analyze literary texts, they will gain insight into crime fiction's socio-cultural and political contexts and will understand the relevance of violence in the history of the United States. Moreover, the students will recognize and critically analyze texts from diverse ethnic and gender backgrounds.

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### **LINK to Course Details**

[https://ilias.uni-marburg.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref\\_id=4245752](https://ilias.uni-marburg.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=4245752)