

Carleton University  
Winter 2014  
Department of English

**ENGL 4608A: *Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature***

**Topic: British Spy Fiction from the Great War to the Cold War and Beyond**

**Monday / 2:35 pm – 5:25 pm**

**Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Instructor: Adam Barrows**  
**Email: adam\_barrows@carleton.ca**  
**Office: DT 1901**  
**Phone: 6802**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-4:30**

**Description:** Producing from its ranks some of the most successful popular writers of the twentieth-century, the British Secret Intelligence Service occupies a unique place in the cultural imagination, serving as a readily available icon of a version of English nationalism, masculinity, and political ideology that has been enduringly exportable and marketable around the globe. Replacing the quintessentially Victorian detective Sherlock Holmes (who retires to beekeeping on the eve of the Great War) with the machismo-laden James Bond, British spy fiction reinvented new types of heroes for the twentieth-century as well as a new global image for a Britain otherwise enervated in the wake of its imperial collapse. In this course, we examine British spy fiction from World War One to the present day, including the writing of former British intelligence agents like W. Somerset Maugham, Ian Fleming, John le Carré, and Graham Greene.

**Texts**

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *His Last Bow* (1917)  
Maugham, W. Somerset. *Ashenden* (1928)  
Ambler, Eric. *Epitaph for a Spy* (1938)  
Fleming, Ian. *Casino Royale* (1953)  
Greene, Graham. *Our Man in Havana* (1958)  
Le Carré, John. *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* (1963)  
Seymour, Gerald. *Harry's Game* (1975)  
Boyd, William. *Restless* (2006)

**Writing**

In this course, you will produce one substantial research paper on British spy fiction of the twentieth-century. The paper should be at least 6,000 words and should incorporate primary evidence from at least two of the texts on the syllabus, at least one additional primary text not on the syllabus, and at least six secondary sources. The paper should be argumentative and should

intervene meaningfully and originally in contemporary scholarly debate. Late papers will be accepted, with a penalty of 10 points deducted for each day the paper is late.

In preparation for this assignment, you will also prepare an annotated bibliography of at least ten relevant secondary sources. At least half of these should be dated after the year 1992. Your annotations should summarize the main thesis of each source, provide representative examples, and briefly comment on the source's usefulness. Late assignments will be accepted, with a penalty of 10 points deducted for each day the assignment is late.

In lieu of reading quizzes, I will occasionally ask you to prepare a short written discussion (1-2 pages) of an aspect of the following week's reading. These topics will be announced within the final ten minutes of lecture and will be due within the first ten minutes of the following lecture. Topics will not be posted on culearn. Late papers will not be accepted.

Optional early submission process: The paper is worth 60% of your final grade. You may choose one of the following four options:

OPTION ONE: Submit paper on April 7 (60%)

OPTION TWO: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 24 (10%) and paper on April 7 (50%)

OPTION THREE: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 24 (10%), partial draft (at least 2,000 words) by March 10 (15%), and paper on April 7 (35%)

OPTION FOUR: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 24 (10%), partial draft (at least 2,000 words) by March 10 (15%), complete draft by March 24 (15%) and paper on April 7 (20%)

### **Attendance/Participation**

You are expected to attend every class and to readily participate in the discussion. Participation includes having carefully read the assigned pages for the day and bringing a version of the text to lecture.

### **Grading**

Attendance/Participation: **5%**

Discussion Papers: **10%**

Annotated Bibliography: **25%**

Paper: **60%**

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or

- reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
  - using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
  - using another's data or research findings;
  - failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
  - handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 8, 2013 for the Fall term and March 7, 2014 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

**Course Schedule** (This schedule is subject to change at my discretion. All reading assignments must be completed before the date they are listed. Writing assignments (in bold) are due electronically via culearn by 11:59 pm on the due date unless otherwise noted)

### **January 6**

Course Introduction

**January 13**

Doyle, "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge," "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans,"  
"The Adventure of the Dying Detective," "His Last Bow"

**January 20**

Maugham, *Ashenden* Chapters 1-8

**January 27**

Maugham, *Ashenden* Chapters 9-16

**February 3**

Ambler, *Epitaph for a Spy*

**February 10**

Fleming, *Casino Royale*

**February 17**

**WINTER BREAK**

**February 24**

British Spies in UK film

**Options Two, Three and Four: Proposal Due**

**March 3**

Greene, *Our Man in Havana*

**Annotated Bibliography Due**

**March 10**

Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*

**Options Three and Four: Partial Draft Due**

**March 17**

Seymour, *Harry's Game* Chapters 1-10

**March 24**

Seymour, *Harry's Game* Chapters 11-20

**Option Four: Complete Draft Due**

**March 31**

Boyd, *Restless* Chapters 1-7

**April 7**

Boyd, *Restless* Chapters 8-14

**Paper Due**