**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 3220C**

**WINTER 2024**

**JACK THE RIPPER AND CRIME IN THE 19TH CENTURY**

**Instructor:** Darryl Davies

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**Method of Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:** In this course we will examine the subject from a criminological perspective by looking at the social, economic, and political factors that may have played a role in the creation of the fiend that became known as Jack the Ripper. We will first examine the social conditions in London England at the turn of the century and then piece by historical piece we will trace the killer as his savagery increases from one brutal crime to another. We will also analyze the role of the police and the difficulties they encountered when carrying out their investigations into the murders. In addition, we will look at the impact that the major newspapers played in making Jack the Ripper the legendary figure that he became. Finally, we will consider the various people who were viewed as prime suspects both by senior police officers based in Whitehall who were in charge of the investigation as well as the officers on the beat.

I should make it clear that it is not the intent of this course to make a case for any one particular suspect being Jack the Ripper. Rather the purpose is to separate fact from fiction regarding the killings and to educate the student on crime in 19th century England.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

Sugden, Philip; The Complete History of Jack The Ripper, Constable & Robinson, 2002.

Jones, Richard; Jack the Ripper: The Casebook, Andre Deutsch, 2009.

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Midterm Assignment-40%

Final exam-60%