

**Topic: “Whodunit?: Clues to the Detective Story”**  
**Dr. Sally Harris**

**Course Description:** In Whodunit? we become detectives, searching for clues to the connections and differences among detective stories from different periods and in different formats. As a class, we will read British and American detective short stories, novels, and plays from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as one or two from the twenty-first century. Through the detective story, we will learn about plot and character development, narrative techniques, and the relationship between literature and the social climate.

**Topic: “Native American Pop Culture”**  
**Dr. Carrie Sheffield**

**Course Description:** This course investigates issues facing Native American and First Nations peoples today via the lens of pop culture. We will read dystopian novels, graphic novels/comics, poetry, and short fiction, and even play a video game, in order to get a sense of not only how Native peoples are impacted by things such as racism, historical trauma, and genocide, but also how they are using popular culture as a means of both resistance and healing. Graded work will consist of 3 short papers, participation in online discussion forums, quizzes, and exams.

**Topic: “Man and the Machine: Vocation and the Human Soul in British and American Fiction”**  
**Dr. Sara Melton**

**Course Description:** This class will focus on work and career, and our devotion to (and distaste for!) those subjects, from the Industrial Revolution to the present. Does work destroy souls or build them? Grow our happiness or destroy it? How did we cope in the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, when the nature of work changed, and how will we cope now, as it changes again? And onward to the future: Can we envision a world in which we do not have to work, where robots will perform all menial, mechanical, and industrial functions for us? If that happens, will society collapse, or will mankind finally be able to achieve its full potential? All these questions AND MORE will be tackled in this class, as we read and discuss novels and short fiction that address the ideas of career, avocation, and just plain work from 1800 to the present.