

**University of Roehampton
International Summer School**

Department: Humanities

Module: Magic, Murder & Mystery in London Literature

Module Code: ENG020N261H

Convener: Lucas Townsend (townsenl@roehampton.ac.uk)

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this module will:

- Foster a curiosity about London as a setting for texts using magic, murder, and mystery as core themes.
- Have a secure knowledge of a range of London-based texts from the Victorian period to the present day.
- Develop historical, literary and psychogeographical knowledge of key locations for texts (Baker Street, Senate House, St. James, etc.)
- Express themselves using differing pedagogical forms, including a class presentation and research-based academic essay.

Assessments

Assessment for this module will consist of two assignments:

1. **Individual class presentation** on one aspect of the module, to be chosen and arranged in class. Can also cover material from other excursions and your own relevant material. (8-10 minutes – 30% of grade)
2. **Research essay** on any aspect of the module which covers at least one of the class texts in detail, and incorporates secondary critical sources. (Note: this format is subject to change to an in-class, written exam paper format on the final day of class should the instructor find it necessary.) (8 pages/2000 words – 70% of grade)

Excursions

There will be two or three “excursions” into London proper as part of the course. During these trips, we will visit, explore, and interact with parts of the city relevant to the course texts. The specific times, dates, and activities of these excursions will be decided closer to the running dates of the course, but please bring an Oyster card, as well as additional spending money for food/drink/souvenirs (or pack your own).

Reading List

Please read the following core texts in full in time for the class that said text will be covered. While a limited number of these books will be made available at the Roehampton Library, it is recommended that you rent or purchase these three books (in any edition) for your own study to avoid disappointment. They are short and lightweight, and can be found cheaply at bookstores and online in both the US and the UK. ***E-books, audiobooks, and online versions are not recommended.***

There will be additional short texts that will be required to read, but will be provided as handouts and/or on the Moodle. Research assistance and supplementary critical materials will also be made available.

- Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Sign of Four*. 1890.
- Fleming, Ian. *Moonraker*. 1955.
- Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. 1949.

Class Schedule (Session 1/Session 2)

Week 1—Read *Nineteen Eighty-Four* for Week 2 Monday

- 12 June/3 July:** Introduction to class; important critical terms
- 13 June/4 July:** *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot (in-class reading)
- 14 June/5 July:** *Last Night in Soho* by Krysty Wilson-Cairns and Edgar Wright (in-class film)
- 15 June/6 July:** **Excursion 1.** City of London walk (meet outside Farringdon Station. Time TBD.)

Week 2—Read *Moonraker* for Week 2 Thursday; *The Sign of Four* for Week 3 Monday

- 19 June/10 July:** *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell
- 20 June/11 July:** “Men at Work,” “The Destroyers,” and “The Basement Room” by Graham Greene (short stories on Moodle)
- 21 June/12 July:** **Excursion 2.** Bloomsbury to St. James walk (meet middle of Russell Square at fountain. Time TBD.)
- 22 June/13 July:** *Moonraker* by Ian Fleming

Week 3

- 26 June/17 July:** *The Sign of Four* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- 27 June/18 July:** “A Study in Emerald” by Neil Gaiman (short story on Moodle) and *Sherlock* episode (in-class viewing).
- 28 June/19 July:** Office Hours/Tutorials.
- 29 June/20 July:** Office Hours/Tutorials. Possible Excursion 3 (TBD).

Essays will be due approximately a week or so after final class period (TBD)