

Crime! Uncanny Places in Victorian and Edwardian Literature

This course aims at introducing and analysing some of the best known, most translated and adapted texts of the long nineteenth century. We shall focus on issues related to crime, detective fiction, science and the uncanny spaces of Victorian culture. We shall read texts which deal with real and plausible events in a culture receiving itself as forever under attack from atavistic traces of the primitive past and inconceivable forces of the ever-changing present. We shall follow such traces of mystery and crime through sensation fiction in the Sixties (M. E. Braddon), through the new born detective and police fiction (W. Collins, A. Conan Doyle) with texts narrating the many dangers infecting the allegedly safe domestic and national borders. We shall finish early in the twentieth century with Conrad's *Secret Agent*, which sees the metropolis infected and shattered by disquieting anarchical and terroristic plots.

9 CFU

Primary:

Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*, 1862, ed. L. ykett, Oxford University Press, 2012

Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*, 1864, ed. by Francis O'Gorman, Oxford University Press 2019

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1902, Edited with an introduction by W. W. Robson, Oxford University Press, 2008

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, 1907, ed. J. Lyon, Oxford University Press, 2008

Critical material

Secondary works

This will be provided during the course, partially uploaded

on the Moodle platform. Novels must be bought or downloaded, while critical material will be at least partially provided

6 CFU

Primary:

you choose 3 out of the following 4 novels and the related materials, plus the general material that will be provided

Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*, 1862, ed. L. ykett, Oxford University Press, 2012

Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*, 1864, ed. by Francis O'Gorman, Oxford University Press 2019

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1902, Edited with an introduction by W. W. Robson, Oxford University Press, 2008

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, 1907, ed. J. Lyon, Oxford University Press, 2008

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Please refer to the 'Testi di riferimento' for a few editions of the literary works which are already available in our Polo Beato Pellegrino Library

Please contact prof. Parlati to get the moodle password