

ENGL 7/8460 - Popular Literary Traditions: The American Private Detective
Dr. Jeffrey Scraba
Wednesdays 5:30-8:30pm

As a figure poised between the law and the outlaw, between the public and the private, and between the author and the reader, the private detective offers us a unique epistemological and ethical perspective on a culture. From Pauline Hopkins' Maryland and Washington to Linda Hogan's Oklahoma, from Dashiell Hammett's Montana to Walter Mosley's L.A., we will follow fictional detectives as they discover the political complexities of a particular time and space. Other writers will likely include Edgar Allan Poe, Raymond Chandler, Vera Caspary, Sarah Paretsky, Stephen Graham Jones, Chester Himes, and Paul Auster.