Women's Studies Department  
Spring, 1995

W.S. 302-3 (Special Topic)  
Nora Kelly  
Genre-Bending: Women in Crime Fiction  
Tuesday Evening @ H.C.

Crime fiction has been popular throughout the twentieth century. It is a literary form that presents feminist writers with serious difficulties, yet many writers choose it, and they are widely read. This course will consider the question: what is a feminist crime novel? We will examine the traditions and conventions of crime fiction and analyze the work of selected women writers against this background. Images of women, attitudes to crime and authority, and the role of the hero will be themes central to our enquiry.

REQUIRED READING:

Cross, Amanda, *No Word from Winnifred*. Ballantine.  
Wilson, Barbara, *Murder in the Collective*. Seal.  

One "classic" piece of crime fiction selected from a list of male authors including Arthur Conan Doyle, Raymond Chandler and Mickey Spillane.

In addition, there will be several critical articles to read, copies of which will be provided to the students (at cost) or available on reserve at the library at Harbour Centre:


ASSIGNMENTS:

Written report (2-3 pages) on assigned reading. Due Week 3.  
Oral report (10 minutes) on assigned and additional reading. Weeks 5-10  
Participation in class discussion  
Final essay (15 pages)

DESIGNATED CREDIT:

Students may apply to the English Department to obtain 3 upper division credits toward their upper division English requirements.

Students may apply to the Liberal Arts Certificate Program to obtain 3 upper division credits toward a Certificate in Liberal Arts.