



**Adult Learning  
Within Reach**

## **Course details**

### **Course title**

Literature: Nordic Noir

### **Course code**

Q00017459

### **Course date**

Start: 19/09/24

End: 28/11/24

### **Number of classes**

10 sessions

### **Timetable**

Thu 19th Sep, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 26th Sep, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 3rd Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 10th Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 17th Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 24th Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 7th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 14th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 21st Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 28th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

### **Tutor**

Stephen Smith

### **Fee range**

Free to £74.00

### **How you'll learn**

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

## **Venue**

Online

## **Level of study**

Beginners

## **Course overview**

This course will examine the publishing phenomenon of Nordic Noir, locating its roots in the early twentieth century, before exploring four contemporary novels from the genre. Our texts will be *Doctor Glas* by Hjalmar Soderberg; *Smilla's Sense of Snow* by Peter Hoeg; *The Bird Tribunal* - Agnes Ravatn; *The Flatey Enigma* - Viktor Arnor Ingolfson and *Missing* - Karin Alvtegen. These texts will take us inside the mind of Nordic Noir and we will evaluate the common features of the genre and its relationship with crime-fiction, horror and recent forms of Gothic literature. There will be ample scope for lively discussion in our sessions

## **Course description**

The genre Nordic Noir, a publishing phenomenon and the source of many small-screen drama series, has been one of the most dominant forms of popular literature in the past decades, which shows no sign of abating. We will explore the origins of the literary genre, arguing that it begins with *Doctor Glas* by Hjalmar Soderberg, who creates a tale of obsessive love and murder.

We will then progress to explore more recent examples of the genre, crossing several Scandinavian nations, each with its own particular landscape and cultural emphases. Seeking common features within the genre, we will discuss the psychology of murder, the audience's desire for horror, the genre's relationship with more traditional crime fiction and the conventional thriller.

We will also discuss issues relating to the perceived misogyny of Nordic Noir, the nature of its graphic depictions of death, and how these elements relate to questions of individual and societal attitudes to gender, sexuality, ethnicity and class.

These are important questions and require thoughtful discussion.

It is hoped that our discussions will allow an evaluation or re-evaluation of the genre and the readership's desire to be entertained by terror, an argument that has been a live and contentious one for centuries.

## What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/literature/19-september-literature-nordic-noir>