Genres of Popular Literature
(BBLANO9500)
Kinga Földváry

Time: 1 April, 22 April, 13 May
Place: DAN 214
Contact: by e-mail: foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu
Course material: MS Teams

Course schedule:
27 April 8.15–12.30
- What is popular literature? Genres, formulas, conventions
- **Crime fiction**: E.A. Poe: "The Purloined Letter" (1844)
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1891)

Reading for the class: the two short stories by E. A. Poe and A. Conan Doyle

4 May 13.15–17.15

- Classic **pulp** fiction (www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html)
- **Science Fiction**: Isaac Asimov: "Runaround" (1941)
- **Tales of the West**: Stephen Payne: "The Gun" (1950) / Dorothy Johnson: "A Man Called Horse" (1953) / Elmore Leonard: "Three-Ten to Yuma" (1953)

Reading for the class: Asimov's story, and at least one of the western stories

25 May 8.15–12.30
- **Post-apocalyptic dystopia**: Ray Bradbury: "There Will Come Soft Rains" (1950, published in *The Martian Chronicles*)
- **Zombie romance**: Isaac Marion: *Warm Bodies* (2010)
- **Alternative options**: **Young Adult** (e.g. *13 Reasons Why*; *The Hunger Games*); **spy fiction** (e.g. Ian Fleming or John le Carré's work); **literary bestseller** (e.g. Sally Rooney: *Normal People*)

Reading for the class: Bradbury's story, and **ONE** novel of the group's choice

Requirements:
- **Active participation**, reading course material, regular attendance (max. 1 missed occasion)
- **Reflections** on the readings (appr. 500 words), pointing out the generic conventions in the works, in the form of assignments on Teams, to be submitted before the class
- Instead of one of the reflections, you can give an in-class **presentation** on any work of popular fiction (not on the reading list), with an emphasis on the features related to its genre
- **Home essay**: at least 2000 words long, uploaded by the **31st of May** to MS Teams (double or 1,5-spaced, font size 12, Times New Roman, .docx format), presenting and analysing any literary work, written originally in English, that qualifies as popular literature – and **that we have NOT discussed in class**. Use **at least three secondary (academic) sources** in your analysis. Any source you use in your work must be referenced, otherwise you fail the course!