Genres of Popular Literature
(BBLANO9500)
Kinga Földváry

Time: 28 March, 18 April, 9 May
Place: BTK D 502
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Course material: MS Teams

Course schedule:
28 March 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

18 April 8.15–12.30
- Classic **pulp** fiction (www.pulpmags.org/magazines.html)
- **Science Fiction**: Isaac Asimov: "Runaround" (1941); (optional: "First Law" (1956))
- **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

9 May .15–12.30
- **Post-apocalyptic dystopia:** Ray Bradbury: "There Will Come Soft Rains" (1950, published in *The Martian Chronicles*)
- **Fantasy:** Susanna Clarke: "Mrs Mabb"; (optional: U. Le Guin: "Why Are Americans Afraid of Dragons?")
- **In-class test**

Reading for the class: Bradbury's and Clarke's stories, and theoretical essays (to be specified later)

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
- You do not need to use any source in your reflections – I am interested in YOUR opinion, rather than that of ChatGPT or Google – but if you use any source whatsoever, this **must be properly referenced** (including language revision by AI-powered tools!), otherwise you fail the course!
- 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
- **In-class essay**: based on the readings and discussions, and secondary sources specified and made available on Teams.