

Introduction to Crime Fiction

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 12–1 p.m. or by appointment

April 17, 2023. Mosley (1).

so, about last week...

- ▶ tentative framework agreed in negotiations
- ▶ we'll see...

what next?

- ▶ one more novel, *Devil in a Blue Dress*
- ▶ paper 2 due as late as I can make it: May 5
 - ▶ 2000–2500 words
 - ▶ pre-writing due April 26, in time for me to give feedback
 - ▶ write about Chandler, Ngūgĩ, or Mosley
 - ▶ engage with a secondary source (guidance coming)
 - ▶ suggested topics are only a starting point: **focus**

Ngũgĩ: a luta continua

The real “mystery” here is why post-independence Kenya failed to become truly independent, and all the clues point to the capitalist structure and ties of the new black bourgeoisie with western financiers and governments. (Carter, 125)

[Karega:] “There are many Kimerias and Chuis in the country. They are the products of a system, just as workers are products of a system. It’s the system that needs to be changed.” (366)

He wished he could swallow back the words. He had hurt her less by the didactic triteness than by a combination of tone and gesture. (387)

not so easy

The truth is, the epic of community in *Petals of Blood* is constantly undermined by an ironic bourgeois narrative centered on the crisis of individual subjects. (Gikandi, 153)

Though Wanja functions as “type,” she resists being “typed.” (Roos, 167)

[Akinyi] She looked shy and she spoke in Swahili. (408)

“seemed like a lifetime”

- ▶ How does the opening of *Devil* situate us in time? Think about History but also personal history, and the chronology of a crime.

“seemed like a lifetime”

- ▶ How does the opening of *Devil* situate us in time? Think about History but also personal history, and the chronology of a crime.
- ▶ “used to white people by 1948” (1)
 - ▶ after war but also before now
 - ▶ after leaving the Jim Crow South but before Civil Rights
- ▶ retroversions galore
 - ▶ “spent five years” (1)
 - ▶ “‘He worked at Champion Aircraft up to two days ago’” (3)
 - ▶ Daphne’s disappearance (19)
 - ▶ “I hadn’t seen Mouse in four years when...” (33)

the language of narrative

I always tried to speak proper English in my life, the kind of English they taught in school, but I found over the years that I could only truly express myself in the natural, “uneducated” dialect of my upbringing. (10)

“Easy,” I said, “get a good night’s sleep and og out looking for a job tomorrow.” (13)

true love

I loved her and I was jealous of her and if the bank sent the county marshal to take her from me I might have come at him with a rifle rather than to give her up. (12-13)

next

- ▶ keep going: try for chap. 13.