

20th Century British Detective Fiction
General Reading List

This list is by no means exhaustive, but neither is it intended to be prescriptive – you are not expected to read all (or indeed any) of these books. It is firstly for your information. You may wish to use some of these works as general resources, but it is more likely that you'll be using the reading lists given out each week on specific authors, in conjunction with the occasional critical essay we'll be using in seminars.

The list is secondly intended to give you an idea of the variety of critical work that has been produced this century, from the traditional hunt-for-source type scholarship through feminist readings and more. If you're particularly interested in one aspect of detective fiction, I hope that this list will give you a starting point for finding more material after you leave Oxford.

In addition to paper resources, there are now many websites that focus on crime, detective and mystery fiction. These aren't always suitable for research purposes – the material isn't often set out in a format amenable to the degree of scholarly precision adopted by the books below. But they are quite exhaustive, and some of them are even fun! As most sites are hyperlinked to each other, I'll mention just the one – 'A Guide to Classic Mystery and Detection' (<http://members.aol.com/MG4273/classics.htm>) – which should be the first port of call for any academic cybersleuth.

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