

SCAN/CWL 215 Madness Myth and Murder

MIDTERM Fall 2021

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

All answers must be submitted as a **Word doc** or a **pdf** to compass. Your submission should be **double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman** font, with standard one inch margins.

Any answers submitted in other formats will have points docked, unless you have a compelling reason.

A. Short Answer Questions

Identify and define five of the following terms:

- Norden/the Nordic countries – list the countries and state briefly how they are related
- Nordic noir – what is it? what are the major features of the genre?
- The Modern Breakthrough – when did this movement occur, and what were some of its major themes?
- unreliable narrator
- implied author – what is an implied author? (As opposed to the actual author)
- implied audience – what is an implied audience
- murder in the Viking Age – what should you do if you kill someone, according to Viking law? What happens if you don't do this?
- revenge and compensation in the Viking Age – explain how taking revenge works, and why you might choose to pay compensation (as a killer) or accept it (as a close relative of the person killed).

B. Essay Question

Answer ONE essay question. Your answer should be AT LEAST one page, double-spaced. Do not reproduce the answers you wrote for weekly discussion questions.

Questions 1 and 2 are very similar to two weekly discussion questions. If you have already written on one of these, please choose a different question.

Whichever question you answer, you need to provide evidence from the text, film or tv show to support your ideas. This can take the form of a brief quote, or a paraphrase, or a reference to a scene – but tell me why it supports your ideas (if it's not completely obvious).

1. The Killing - The Killing presents a very skeptical view of NATO's mission in Afghanistan and Denmark's participation in George W. Bush's "War on Terror". Compare the Killing's treatment of this with one American tv show (eg. Homeland, 24, Battlestar Galactica season 3).

In what ways does *The Killing* express skepticism, and how does that compare to the treatment of this subject in the US tv show you are comparing it with.

2. Dr. Glas – why does Dr. Glas decide, in the end, to kill Gregorius? What reasons does he give to justify himself? Are those the real reasons? Is Dr. Glas in fact deceiving himself, or does he see himself clearly? Cite evidence from the text to support your point of view.

3. Saga of Hrafnkel Freysgoði – what roles do reputation (honor) and social status play in Hrafnkel's actions in the first half of the saga (up to his being outlawed at the Althing)? Do reputation and social status play the same role in his actions for the remainder of the saga?

4. Ariel – describe the arc of the film's protagonist, Taisto. In what ways is he alienated or isolated? What larger social and economic realities affect his isolation? How does he escape his alienation? (If you find this useful, you can also discuss Taisto's arc as an example of a "male odyssey", to use Pietari Kääpä's phrase)