

Black Dahlia Unsolved Syllabus

Fridays, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM, Spring 2026

MAB2 Room TBD

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Course Description

Dive into one of America's most infamous unsolved murders. This course examines the 1947 murder of Elizabeth Short, which shocked Los Angeles and continues to captivate the public imagination. We'll start by thoroughly reviewing the evidence from the police investigation and the background of the victim. Then, we'll explore theories and suspects, from drifters and doctors to influential figures in Hollywood's underbelly. In each session, we will dissect theories with a critical eye, analyzing supporting evidence, counterarguments, and historical context. Join us for a chilling journey through the shadowy world of post-war LA, where fact and fiction blur in the search for a killer who may never be unmasked.

Week	Topic
Week 1 / Feb. 6.	Case Overview & Early Investigation
Week 2 / Feb. 13	Investigation Continued & Last Known Whereabouts Robert "Red" Manley & Mark Hansen
Week 3 / Feb. 20	Who was Elizabeth Short?
Week 4 / Feb. 27	Leslie Dillon, the 1949 Grand Jury, & the Aster Motel Connection
Week 5 / Mar. 6	Dr. George Hodel
Week 6 / Mar. 13	Dr. Walter Bayley & Dr. Patrick S. O'Reilly
Week 7 / Mar. 27	More Theories: Jack Anderson Wilson, Orson Welles, Mob Connection, Cleveland Torso Murders, Werewolf Murders
Week 8 / Apr. 3	Early Suspects Revisited: Carl Balsiger & Marvin Margolis
Week 9 / Apr. 10	1947 vs. Modern Investigation Techniques, Criminal Profiling, & Cold Case Development
Week 10 / Apr. 17	Final Analysis & Conclusions

***Content/order/classes subject to change if necessary.**