

Humanities Seminars Program

The Long Life of Sherlock Holmes

Dr. Laura Berry
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Wednesdays 4-6 pm
July 13-August 17, 2022

Required Texts:

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. Ed. Ed Glinert. Penguin Classics, 2001. ISBN-10: 0140437711.

---. *A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four*. Dover Thrift Edition, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0486431666.

---. *The Best Supernatural Tales of Arthur Conan Doyle*. Introduced by E.F. Bleiler. Dover Publications, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0486237251.

Elementary. Television series created by Robert Doherty. Available to stream on Hulu and Amazon Prime. (Select episodes).

Freud, Sigmund. *The Question of Lay Analysis*. Ed. James Strachey, et.al. W.W. Norton, 1990. ISBN-13: 978-0393005035. The text is also available online at <http://www.yorku.ca/dcarveth/LayAnalysis.pdf>.

Freud, Sigmund. *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Excerpts will be selected from the online version: <https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Freud/Dreams/dreams.pdf>.

House. Television series created by Paul Attanasio, et.al. Available to stream on Peacock and Amazon Prime. (Select episodes).

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey. Digital Humanities Institute. November 1875 trial for murder of Henry Wainwright and Thomas George Wainwright. Selected excerpts to be assigned from the below online version:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?div=t18751122-1>.

Sherlock. Television series created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for the BBC. Available to stream on Amazon Prime and iTunes. (Select episodes).

Schedule of Readings/Viewing and Weekly Content

Week I

The Enduring Detective – Introduction, Arthur Conan Doyle biography and history, adaptations and artifacts, major themes.

Doyle, “The Red-Headed League,” “The Greek Interpreter,” “A Case of Identity,” and “The Man with the Twisted Lip.”

Please have in mind any and all adaptations or any other artifact related to Sherlock Holmesiana.

Week II

Deduction and Diagnosis – Late nineteenth century epistemology, comparison of the methods of Freud and Holmes, diverging notions of selfhood and psychology.

Doyle, A Study in Scarlet, Part I

Although I will not focus on it at length, you may also wish to read Part II.

Freud, *The Question of Lay Analysis*.

Week III

Science and Superstition – Doyle’s supernaturalism, theories of the dream, late nineteenth century science, empiricism, religion, and spiritualism.

Freud, selections from *The Interpretation of Dreams*.

Doyle, “The Leather Funnel,” “Through the Veil,” and one or two other stories from the *Supernatural Tales*.

Week IV

Colonial Fictions – “The Definitive Englishman,” masculinity, British colonialism; Doyle, history, and imperialism.

Doyle, “The Speckled Band,” The Sign of Four

Week V

The Modern Sherlock – 21st century visions with an emphasis on the figure of The Woman, Watson, and the idea of the unlikable addicted genius.

Selected episodes from *Elementary*, *Sherlock* and *House*.

Doyle, “Scandal in Bohemia” and one or two other stories.

Week VI

Law and Identity – Course wrap-up, return to major themes, particularly identify and selfhood.

Doyle, “The Blue Carbuncle,” and “The Musgrave Ritual”

Wainwright murder case of 1875.