

Major Authors 385: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Professor R. Sirabian, 425 CCC



This course will begin with the Sherlock Holmes short stories, the stories that made Sherlock Holmes famous. We will look at adaptations too, such as the 1939 Basil Rathbone movies and the BBC *Sherlock* (Benedict Cumberbatch). We'll also look at the TV shows *House* and *Elementary*. In fact, most, if not all, detective shows on TV today are Holmes adaptations. It is amazing that today Sherlock Holmes seems more popular than ever, so we will discuss why this is as well as the ways adaptations link the “original” stories to our society and culture.

But that's not all! In addition to the Sherlock Holmes stories, we will read *The Lost World* (1912), whose protagonist is another famous Conan Doyle character, paleontologist Professor Challenger. He leads an expedition that discovers a lost world inhabited by dinosaurs and ape-people! Finally, we will read Conan Doyle's historical novel *The White Company* (1891), set during the Hundred Years War (fourteenth century), which follows the adventures of 20-year-old Alleyne Edricson as he fights for England as a member of a group of intrepid archers known as the White Company. In addition to action and adventure, these two novels reveal interesting nineteenth-century ideas about science, empire, and history.

Tentative requirements: The course focus will be on reading. However, there will be quizzes, some assignments, midterm (and perhaps a final), two shorter essays OR a longer course (research) essay.

Please see me if you have questions—425CCC.