English
Sherlock Holmes's London: Mystery and the Metropolis ~ Daniel Shea
UD (Upper Division 300-400)/G (Graduate 500 and above)
3 credit hours

The course will enhance students' familiarity with Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories and novels and their origins in late-Victorian London. Specifically, the course will focus on the literary, historical, and cultural contexts which influenced the creation and shape of Conan Doyle's enormously popular detective tales. We will supplement our study of the Holmes stories with studies in nineteenth-century detective and mystery fiction by, for example, Poe and Dickens, and also in the late-Victorian literature which was written alongside, and which influenced, the early Holmes stories, including the works of J.M. Barrie, Oscar Wilde, R. L. Stevenson, Henry James, and others. In nearly all cases, London figures centrally into literature we'll study. By visiting the sites featured prominently in the literature we'll read, students will develop an understanding of the specific ways that late-Victorian London serves not merely as a backdrop, but indeed as a framing figure or character in the Holmes stories and in the works of his contemporaries. Visits to the various areas or districts of London?including, for example, Soho, Whitechapel, Westminster, Mayfair?will provide students with a sense of the invisible but clearly influential social distinctions which Londoners knew well. Within this broader context, our London tours of Conan Doyle's houses and medical offices as well as the Sherlock Holmes Museum and the sites of significance from the Holmes stories will provide students with an understanding of the author's specific cultural milieu. Tours of the Linley Sambourne and Lord Leighton houses will provide a unique window into the upper-middle class domestic spaces of the late-Victorian literati, while theatre district plays will provide a glimpse of the theatrical worlds in which most of our authors worked. Visits to the Museum of London and the Victoria and Albert Museum and similar sites will help further develop students' understanding of the late-Victorian history and culture of the city which served as the nursery for so much strange and riveting literature. Potential reading list: J. M. Barrie. Peter Pan (1904). Charles Dickens. Bleak House (1852) and The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1870). Gustav Doré. Prints from London: A Pilgrimage (1872). Arthur Conan Doyle.---. The Original Illustrated Sherlock Holmes (works from 1890-1905). ---. A Study in Scarlet (1886). Elizabeth Gaskell ?Disappearances? (1851). Henry James. The Turn of the Screw (1898). Blanchard Jerrold and Gustav Doré. London: A Pilgrimage (1872). Edgar Allen Poe. Selected Stories. R. L. Stevenson. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886). H. G. Wells. The Time Machine (1895). Oscar Wilde. The Importance of Being Earnest (1895). ---. Excerpts from The Picture of Dorian Gray (1890).

Can the course be taken to fulfill major and minor requirements? YES

Can the course be taken to fulfill general elective credits? YES

Are there prerequisites for this course?
One semester of lower-level literature ("Introduction to Literature," "Traditions in World Literature," etc.)
<u>Assessment Methods</u>:
Traditional Tests & Quizzes (other than final exam—see summative component) 10%
  - Quizzes on readings, conducted on site.

  Journals (Daily, Weekly,...) 10%
- Journal entries will document all or most of the course activities in England.

  Short Essays 15%
  - Short responses to the readings and research.

  Papers 20%
  - Students will write one 1,000-1,500-word literary analysis.

Presentations   10%
- Students will give short presentations on topics pertaining to our activities and readings in London.

Summative Component,   25%
- Final exam (essay)

  Other. 10%
  - Participation.

Graduate students will produce a research paper of 17-25 pages in length upon return to the U.S. They will be exempt from the Paper (20%), Short Essays (15%) and Journals (10%) the undergraduates complete; the Graduate student research paper will thus be worth 45% of the final grade.