



ENGLISH 200 Summer 2013

Research Project: Making A Case About a Holmesian Interpretation

Due in class and in www.turnitin.com on Monday July 1.

No extensions.

The summative project in this class asks you to show that you can analyze some aspect of Holmesian interpretation—whether it is a detailed study of works from the original Canon or a thoughtful analysis of reinterpreted material, whether written, filmed, or otherwise presented. The expected length is at least 7 double-spaced pages, not including a correct Works Cited page in 2009 MLA form. Depending on your topic, this can be a traditional research paper, or, if you make the case persuasively, we could be open to something like a short film, podcast, Presi, or other mode of presentation.

No matter the form or topic, you will need a sharp argumentative thesis for this paper and to support the claims you make with specific evidence from the particular literary texts you analyze. So if you wanted to compare and contrast Holmes and Dupin, or look at anti-American prejudices in *A Study in Scarlet* or the way Moriarty is portrayed in the BBC *Sherlock* or the refashioning of Holmes into Dr. Gregory House, or convince us why the 1980s Russian adaptation of the original stories is superior to other versions, go right ahead; we just don't want to see a vanilla thesis such as "Carole Nelson Douglas's portrayal of Irene Adler is very interesting." There's no sharpness there. On the other hand, "Laurie King's use of Mary Russell as a female sidekick for Holmes is a far more successful adaptation than the character of Joan Watson in *Elementary*" is an argument that would be interesting to read.

In best Holmesian fashion, we will expect you to bring in expert witnesses (in this case outside sources) to support your case. The use of these witnesses should be properly documented in correct 2009 MLA fashion.

The project will be developed in three stages:

- You'll make your pitch for a paper topic in short paper #2
- You'll have the opportunity to consult with both of us on drafts in week 4
- The final version will be presented to us in concrete form on July 1 and in a short (5-minute or so) presentation to your classmates on the last two days of class.