In the 1890s, Arthur Conan Doyle created one of the most enduring literary characters of all time: Sherlock Holmes. In so doing, he solidified the conventions of the detective story, perfected its maneuvering of clues, and celebrated the methods of scientific deduction by which Holmes solves each case. This course will begin with Doyle’s original Holmes stories, including *The Study in Scarlet* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Then we will look at the many reinventions of Holmes through a variety of genres over the next century: Carole Nelson Douglas’s alternate telling, *Good Night, Mr. Holmes*, Eve Titus’s children’s story, *The Great Mouse Detective*, Karl Bollers’s and Rick Leonardi’s graphic novel, *Watson and Holmes: A Study in Black*, as well as recent films and television versions that revamp the great detective for the 21st century. We will explore the perennial appeal of Holmes as a character, of his friendship with Watson, and of the detective story as a genre, we will ask how deception and detection mutually operate to invite certain ways of reading, thinking, and writing about literature, and we will interrogate how adaptation itself works as a practice of literary interpretation and analysis.