

# Björklunden Seminars

*"Vacation with a purpose"*

OCT. 6-9, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



## Cinematic Sherlocks

### Course Description

Sherlock Holmes was created by Arthur Conan Doyle, but not even Doyle could control his popularity and influence. Doyle tried to kill Holmes off so he could get on with his other literary interests, but the avid followers of the stories (including Doyle's own mother) protested so rigorously (and the publisher lost subscriptions), he had to revive the detective and produce another series of stories.

Even before Doyle discontinued the adventures of his creation, others were using the characters, characteristics, and knowable qualities to develop new stories. In the process they created new qualities which became attached to the Holmes persona. For instance, there is no reference to deerstalker hats in Doyle stories nor to a curved meerschaum pipe. Holmes never says "Elementary, my dear Watson." A generation grew up believing that Holmes looks just like Basil Rathbone and Dr. Watson was the very image of Nigel Bruce. Certainly, our favorite consulting detective and his partner don't look like Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law nor like Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman.

Sunday night we will see Rathbone in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Monday afternoon and evening (a repeat of the afternoon show in case you have other plans and interests) will have the first episode of Downey's representation, and Tuesday afternoon and evening (a repeat of the afternoon showing) will show the first Cumberbatch episode.

The Sunday to Wednesday seminar will explore both how and why such adaptations come about, what they tell us about heroes and villains, and what values have changed in our culture.

## Instructor



### Doug Northrop

Northrop retired several times, but was often tempted back for another project from his 52 years of teaching English at Ripon College. He also served as Vice-President and Dean of Faculty for 17 years.

His undergraduate degree is from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and his graduate degrees (MA and PhD) are from the University of Chicago. Though primarily a student of the Elizabethan age, he enjoyed studying and teaching literary criticism and literary love.

Movies were often part of the curriculum as they illustrated significant issues and trends. Northrop has attended 10 of Dr. Jack Rhodes seminars at Björklunden over the years and conducted two of them when he was unable to do so. Northrop particularly enjoys the lively exchanges during the seminar discussions.

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