

# Undergraduate Syllabus

## *Doctor Who*

**CCSA, London Winter, 12/26/2016-1/8/2017**

**Dr. David Lavery**—MTSU P. O. Box 70 | 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 | Office: (615) 8985648; Fax: (615) 898-5098 | E-mail: [david.lavery@mtsu.edu](mailto:david.lavery@mtsu.edu) or [david.lavery@gmail.com](mailto:david.lavery@gmail.com) | Homepage: <http://davidlavery.net> | Course Website: [http://davidlavery.net/Courses/Doctor\\_Who](http://davidlavery.net/Courses/Doctor_Who)

**Dr. David Lavery** is Director of Graduate Studies and Professor in the English Department at Middle Tennessee State University (1993- ). The recipient of the University's 2006 Distinguished Research Award, he is the author of over one hundred and fifty published essays, chapters, and reviews and the author / co-author / editor / co-editor of twenty-one books, including *Joss Whedon, A Creative Portrait: From Buffy the Vampire Slayer to The Avengers, TV Goes to Hell: An Unofficial Road Map of Supernatural, The Essential Cult Television Reader, and The Essential Sopranos Reader*. The co-convenor of international conferences on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and the work of Joss Whedon and *The Sopranos*; co-founder of the Whedon Studies Association and its journal *Slayage* and founding editor of *Critical Studies in Television*, he has lectured around the world on the subject of television (Australia, Turkey, the UK, Portugal, New Zealand, Ireland, Germany), been a guest/source for the BBC, NPR, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, *The New York Times*, *A Folha de Sao Paulo* (Brazil), *Publica* (Portugal), *Information* (Netherlands), AP, *The Toronto Star*, *USA Today*, and *The Financial Times* and from 2006-2008 taught film and television at Brunel University in London.

### **About the Course**

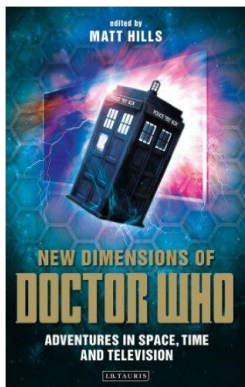
One of the longest running television series in the world, [Doctor Who](#) (BBC, 1963- ) chronicles the adventure of an ageless, extraterrestrial time-lord, the last of his race, who travels the universe in The TARDIS (an acronym for Time and Relative Dimensions in Space), his spaceship/time machine, which appears from the outside in the guise of a 1950s British police call box. The Doctor (we never learn his actual name) has always exhibited a profound interest in the UK, which needs frequent rescue from a wide variety of cosmic threats. A series originally intended as educational (hence the Doctor's frequent visits to moments in history and encounters with famous Brits) but also capable of scaring children for several generations, *Doctor Who* rebooted in 2005 under the control of Russell T. Davies, who, under the influence of American cult TV shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, brought the series into the 21st century and extended *Who's* global reach. From 2010 to 2015, Steven Moffat served as showrunner. When the series returns in 2017, Chris Chibnall will be in charge.

Focusing primarily on the new *Doctor Who* (2005- ), we will:

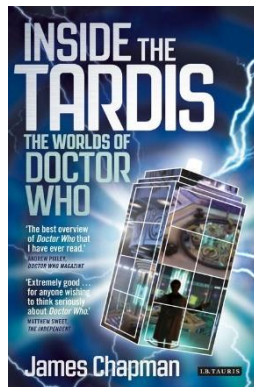
- Examine the history of *Doctor Who*.
- Track the Doctor's many reincarnations/transformations.
- Compare and contrast the British and American television industries.
- Compare and contrast British and American series.
- Trace cultural and media influences on the *Who* reboot.
- Compare and contrast the new *Who* under the control of its two showrunners: Davies and now Steven Moffat.
- Explore *Who*'s key themes.
- Understand the nature of the Doctor's many "companions."
- Investigate the *Who* fandom.
- Consider *Who* as science fiction television.
- Consider *Who* as an example of cult television.
- Explore *Who*'s Britishness.
- Map *Who*'s locations (visiting several settings in and around London).
- Apply the latest insights of methods like semiotics and narratology to *Doctor Who*.
- Place *Who* as an example of a "multi-platform" popular culture phenomenon.
- Consider *Who* as an international television phenomenon.

## Books

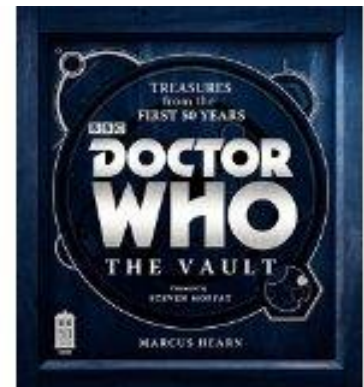
Click on each cover to order from Amazon.



Required



Required



Optional

## Course Requirements

**A Journal**—Students will watch at least twenty episodes either prior to or during our time in London and in a journal will record their responses to at least twelve in entries of not less than 500 words each. Due by no later than January 31, 2014 (submitted as an e-mail attachment). **Course Weight: 20%**

**A Paper**—Students will write a critical/analytical essay of not less than 1500 words on a particular episode of *Who*. Due by no later than January 31, 2014 (submitted as an e-mail attachment). **Course Weight: 30%**

**Summative Component**—Each class member will write a source paper of at least 2,000 words on some aspect of *Doctor Who* (the subject must be approved by me), making use of at least ten sources. This paper will be due by March 1, 2014 (submitted as an e-mail attachment). **Course Weight: 40%**

**Class Participation**—Each student's participation in the class, including leading class discussion (alone or in collaboration with another class member) of a particular *Who* episode, will be evaluated on a scale of 1-10. **Course Weight: 10%**

## Course Policies

**Participation.** Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings and excursions, both inside and outside London. An unexcused absence will result in a letter grade reduction.

**Viewing of *Who* Episodes:** Please make every effort to watch those episodes listed on the Agenda prior to class meetings. Episodes will not be screened in class (though we will watch and discuss clips).

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** The unacknowledged use of the words / ideas / insights / original research of another is, of course, prohibited. Should I catch you plagiarizing, or cheating in any way, you will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment in question, the violation may be reported to university authorities, and you may fail the course.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student with a disability will be given all the rights and privileges guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act if he/she (1) notifies your professor and (2) is registered with your university's disabled student services office.

**Grading Scale:** 90-100%=A | 80-89%=B | 70-79%=C | 60-69%=D | 0-59%=F.

## Agenda

Day	Date	Mtg	Activity	Whos of the Day
M	12/26/16		Depart for London	
Tu	12/27/16		400: Orientation; 530: Dinner	
W	12/28/16	1	London Sightseeing	Old <i>Who</i> ; New <i>Who</i> [NW] Season 1
Th	12/29/16	2	900 am: Breakfast Meeting; <a href="#">Trip to Forbidden Planet</a> and <a href="#">Alexandra Palace</a>	[NW] Season 2
F	12/30/16	3	1000-1200: Classroom Meeting; Trip to Canary Wharf	[NW] Season 3
Sa	12/31/16		Group Excursion to Stonehenge & Bath	
Su	1/1/17	4	900 am: Breakfast Meeting	[NW] Season 4
M	1/2/17	5	900 am: Breakfast Meeting	[NW] Season 5
Tu	1/3/17	6	100-400: Classroom Meeting—Presentation by <a href="#">Dr. Steven Peacock</a>	[NW] Season 6
W	1/4/17		Group Excursion to Cardiff (to and from Paddington Station)   <a href="#">The Doctor Who Experience</a>	
Th	1/5/17	7	900 am: Breakfast Meeting	[NW] Season 7
F	1/6/17	8	1000: Lounge Meeting; Tour of the <a href="#">BBC Television Centre</a>	[NW] Season 8
Sa	1/7/17	9	100-200: Classroom Meeting—Evaluations	[NW] Season 9
Su	1/8/17		Depart for the United States	