The Doctor WhoCo

"The Doctor? Doctor Who?"

Fall 2016
Thursday, 6:30-7:20pm
Location: PH 226A

Instructors:  Jeanne Luning Prak (jluningp@andrew.cmu.edu)
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Course Website:  http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/jluningp/doctorwhoco/

I. Course Description

The BBC TV show Doctor Who originally aired from 1963 to 1989 before being resurrected in 2005 to become the popular franchise we know and love. The show has endured through many changes in format, leadership, and cast. This course is a place for anyone who wants to learn about the rich history of the show and discuss its eras, monsters, heroes, technology, and fandom. No prior knowledge of Doctor Who is required – all are welcome!

II. Course Aims and Topics

General Aims
This course aims to give students an in-depth knowledge of Doctor Who, using the current Doctor Who series as a starting point. Topics will begin with a discussion of episodes from the 9th-12th Doctors' eras (New Who) and continue with background information and backstory from the 1st-8th Doctors' eras (Classic Who).

Specific Topics
We will talk about the history of Doctor Who and discuss a new Doctor and a new topic about the show each week, including
- Origins of Doctor Who
- Who is the Doctor?
- Regeneration
- When Doctor Who Goes Wrong
- Monsters and Enemies
- Fandom Over the Years
- The Doctor's Companions
- The Time Lords
- Doctor Who in Our Lives
- The Time War
- Anniversaries
- Missing Episodes, Cancellation, and the Wilderness Years

III. Assignments and Requirements

Class Attendance Policy
This is a very relaxed class. However, because the class is mainly based around discussions, attendance will be taken and is mandatory. Students missing two (2) or more classes without good reason (i.e., sickness, family emergency, etc.) will receive an N.
Course Viewings
We will watch an episode of Doctor Who each week. See the schedule for information on what episodes will be presented.

Assignments
This course is primarily discussion based. Credit will be given for class participation in discussions and as well as attendance. A midterm and final exam will also be given.

IV. Grading Breakdown

(a) Discussion/Participation (80%)
(b) Midterm (10%)
(c) Final (10%)

This is not meant to be a difficult or work-intensive class. It should be a fun, relaxed experience where enthusiasts and aspiring enthusiasts of Doctor Who can come together and have enjoyable discussions. Students who come to class and participate in discussions can expect to pass.

V. Academic Integrity

This is primarily a discussion based class, so usually collaboration is permitted and encouraged. The only exceptions are the midterm and final exams, on which collaboration and sharing of information are not permitted.

VI. Course Schedule

It's all a bit wibbly-wobbly right now. Check on the website for updates to the schedule, as well as links to materials from class.