

**Course Number and Section:** ENGL 395C.001

**Course Name or Topic:** Popular Literature: Superheroes

**Credits:** 3

**Term:** Winter T1, 2020 (Sept.-Dec., 2020)

**Instructor:** Dr. Marie H. Loughlin

***Course Description:***

Beginning in the patriotic propaganda of WWII, superheroes have been present during every American social, cultural and political crisis, including the atomic age and the Cold War of the 1950s, the struggle for racial and gender equality of the 1960s and 70s, and the events of 9/11 and ‘the War on Terror.’ Although this figure reaches back to ancient myth, legend and history, the North American superhero charts the shifting fantasies and anxieties of the modern age. Examining comic books, movies, and popular literature, this course will explore the origins and development of seminal North American superheroes, such as Wonder Woman, Batman, Black Panther, and Doctor Strange, analyzing how these figures have changed in response to major social, cultural and political movements.

***Method of Course Delivery***

This course will run online with both real-time (synchronous) sessions and self-guided (asynchronous) materials. Approximately 3/4 of the course will run asynchronously. For a fuller description of synchronous and asynchronous, see below.

***Required Reading List:***

Selected critical essays [online at UBCO Library]

Grossman, Austin. *Soon I Will Be Invincible* [2008, novel: ebook, Kindle]

Kaufman, Andrew. *All My Friends Are Superheroes* [2013, novella: UBCO Library, e-book]

Brief excerpts from the Bible, ancient myth, and epic (pdf documents free via Canvas)

Selected comic books (via Marvel & DC online platforms; 0.99 to \$ 5.99 per issue or by subscription)

***Required Viewing List:***

*Superman* (1978) & *Superman Returns* (2006)[UBCO Library: Criterion-on-demand streaming service]

*The Dark Knight* (2008) [UBCO Library: Criterion-on-demand streaming service]

*Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017) [UBCO Library: Audio Cine Films streaming service]

*Wonder Woman* (2017) [UBCO Library: Criterion-on-demand streaming service]

*Dr. Strange* (2016) [UBCO Library: Audio Cine Films streaming service]

*The Avengers* (2012) [UBCO Library: Audio Cine Films streaming service]

*X-Men* (2000) [UBCO Library: DVD on reserve; Youtube rental, \$3.99; Disney+]

*Black Panther* (2018) [UBCO Library: Audio Cine Films streaming service]

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***Synchronous:*** Some or all of the scheduled class hours are spent in a real-time, online virtual classroom, with the instructor and registered students in attendance; these class hours may be devoted to lecture, discussion, group work, or other real-time virtual learning activities. Consult your instructor for specifics.

***Asynchronous:*** Refers to course instruction delivered in the form of materials that can be accessed and worked through at the student’s own pace; these materials might include recorded lectures or power point demonstrations, required readings, etc. Consult your instructor for specifics.