

Course Description Form

Course number and section: ENGL 394C & ENGL 395C

Course Topic: Interdisciplinary Studies in English Literature: Superheroes & Popular Literature: Superheroes

Credits: 3

Term: 2022 WT1

Instructor: Marie Loughlin

Course Description:

Beginning in the patriotic propaganda of WWII, superheroes have been present during every North 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 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.

Tentative Reading and Viewing List:

Reading:

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]

Selected comic books (via Comixology or Marvel/DC comic subscription services ; 0.99 to \$ 5.99 per issue or by subscription)

Viewing:

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]

Other: This course is being run simultaneously in two versions: ENGL 394C: Interdisciplinary Studies in English Literature: Superheroes is meant for ENGL majors, minors, combined majors, and concentration students. ENGL 395C: Popular Literature: Superheroes is meant for all other degree students. Please ensure you choose the correct version when you register.