

## E1102: Reading Beyond the Superhero: Comics and Sequential Art in Contemporary U.S. Culture

### Syllabus

#### Week One

Mon 01/05: Introduction to course goals, procedures, & policies

Wed 01/07: McCloud, *Understanding Comics*, Chapters 1 & 2

Fri 01/09: McCloud, *Understanding Comics*, Chapters 3 & 4

#### Unit One: Birth of the Comic Book: Superman, Batman, and American National Ideologies

##### Week Two

Mon 01/12: WEB: Superman #1  
Wright, *Comic Book Nation*, "Superheroes for the Common Man: The Birth of the Comic Book Industry, 1933-1941" (Chapter One)

Wed 01/14: WEB: Engle, "What Makes Superman so Darned American?"  
WEB: Eagan, "A Flag with a Human Face"

Fri 01/16: Diagnostic Exam

##### Week Three

Mon 01/19: **Martin Luther King Day-No Class**

Wed 01/21: Wright, *Comic Book Nation*, "Race, Politics, and Propaganda: Comic Books go to War, 1939-1945" (Chapter Two)  
Superman The Cartoon (DVD)

Fri 01/23: Discussion: Superman The Cartoon



#### Week Four

Mon 01/26: WEB: Batman versus the Vampire, Part One & Part Two, Knights of Knavery

#### Unit Two: Marvel Comics and Cold War Ideologies

Wed 01/28: Wright, *Comic Book Nation*, "Great Power and Great Responsibility: Superheroes in a Superpower, 1956-1979" (Chapter Seven)  
WEB: Amazing Fantasy #15, Spider-Man #1

Fri 01/30:WEB: Fantastic Four #1  
Paper One Due

### Unit Three: Deconstructing the Myth: The Fall of the Superhero?

#### Week Five

Mon 02/02: Miller, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* (Book One)  
Wright, *Comic Book Nation*, "Direct to the Fans: The Comic Book Industry since 1980" (Chapter Nine)

Wed 02/04: Miller, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* (Book Two)

Fri 02/06: Miller, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* (Book Three)  
WEB: Geoff Klock, "The Bat and the Watchmen: Introducing the Revisionary Superhero Narrative"

#### Week Six

Mon 02/09: Miller, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* (Book Four)

Wed 02/11: WEB: Astro City: Life in the Big City

Fri 02/13: Lethem, *The Fortress of Solitude* (Pages 1-115)

#### Week Seven

Mon 02/16: Lethem, *The Fortress of Solitude* (Pages 116-307)

Wed 02/18: Lethem, *The Fortress of Solitude* (Pages 308-412)

Fri 02/20: Lethem, *The Fortress of Solitude* (Pages 413-511)

#### Week Eight

Mon 02/23: BR: Chapter 3: Developing Your Research Question

Wed 02/25: BR: Chapter 5 & 6: Electronic Resources & Print Resources  
Paper Two Proposal Due

Fri 02/27: BR: Chapter 8: Reading Critically



### Unit Four: Race, Gender, and Talking Back: Beyond Superman

**Week Nine**

Mon 03/01: Research Day (Office Hours)

Wed 03/03: Clowes, *Ghostworld*

Fri 03/05: WEB: Clowes, "Pussey"  
Annotated Bibliography Due

**Week Ten**

Mon 03/08-Fri 03/12: **No Classes-Spring Break**

**Week Eleven**

Mon 03/15: MacDuffie, *Static Shock: Trial by Fire*  
WEB: Brown, "Reading Race and Genre"

Wed 03/17: WEB: King-Cat 61

Fri 03/19: BR: Chapter 11 & 12: Organizing and Outlining & Drafting Your Document

**Week Twelve**

Mon 03/22: WEB: Chagoya & Gomez-Pena, *Friendly Cannibals*  
WEB: Pratt, "Arts of the Contact Zone"

Wed 03/24: BR: Chapter 13 & 17: Integrating Source Information & Using MLA Style

Fri 03/26: Research Day (Office Hours)

**Week Thirteen**

Mon 03/29: Paper Workshops (Bring a draft of your paper to class)  
BR: Chapter 14: Revising and Editing

Wed 03/31: *The Tick* (Fox TV show)  
Paper Two Due

Fri 04/02: Darnall & Ross, *Uncle Sam* (Book One)

**Week Fourteen**

Mon 04/05: Darnall & Ross, *Uncle Sam* (Book Two)

Wed 04/07: The Call of Duty (My oral presentation!)

Fri 04/09: Workshop: Oral Presentations

**Week Fifteen**

Mon 04/12: Workshop: Oral Presentations

Wed 04/14: Oral Presentations

Fri 04/16: Oral Presentations

**Week Sixteen**

Mon 04/19: Oral Presentations

Wed 04/21: Oral Presentations

Fri 04/23: Evaluations, Diagnostic Exam

**Week Seventeen**

04/26-04/30: **Final Exam Week** [THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS]



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