



**LYNN UNIVERSITY -- DIALOGUES OF INNOVATION**

**J Term – DJLC 210 K – January 2010**

**“Comic Book Superheroes”**

**Course Syllabus – January 2009**

**Instructor: Elaine Deering**

**Course Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m. – Noon, January 6 – 22, 2010**

**Location: Green Center Computer Lab**

Office Location and Hours: Freiburger Hall (North Wing)

(561) 237-7965

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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**PART I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title: Comic Book Superheroes**

**Course Description:** In this exciting course, students will explore the comic book superhero as a literary genre and we will trace the history of its development, focusing on emerging social trends that have shaped the powerful creative industry it has become today. We will read comics, read *about* comics, write about comics, and talk about comics.

After studying several literary heroes and comic book superheroes, each student will select a favorite comic book superhero and compile a profile from the comic book literature and commentary, in which they will explore the hero’s origins, powers, vulnerabilities, exploits, and involvement with social issues, as well as such themes as secret identities and romantic involvements. At the conclusion of the course, students will answer the question: What is a hero? and reflect upon development of their own heroic traits.

**REQUIRED READINGS** – There will be no textbook for the course. Students will prepare class presentations using comic books and readings exploring the comic book genre from a library which I have compiled from library, online, and personal resources.

**PART II: COURSE SPECIFIC STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**A. *Develop Critical Thinking and Reasoning Abilities***

1. Effectively summarize, compare and contrast topics, problems, questions, or issues presented in the readings, films, and comic books.
2. Identify and evaluate evidence for relevance and quality, and identify one's own position with respect thereto.
3. Recognize assumptions, arguments, positions, and values reflected in the readings, films, and comic books, and describe the values communicated by the hero.

**B. *Develop Written Communication Skills***

Express oneself clearly and succinctly in written documents that are grammatically and structurally correct.

**C. *Develop Oral Communication Skills***

1. Discuss readings and issues clearly, coherently, and in appropriate language.
2. Respond appropriately to arguments and presentations of opposing viewpoints.

**D. *Demonstrate Information and Technological Literacy***

1. Be able to prepare written documents and powerpoint presentations using a word processing system and graphic images obtained from the internet.
2. Be able to communicate effectively with the instructor and classmates using the Blackboard online format.

**E. *Develop an Understanding of How to do Research using Primary and Secondary sources.***

Prepare a series of short papers and final research project analyzing comic book superheroes' characteristics based on primary and secondary sources.

**F. *Increase Knowledge and Understanding of Literary and Comic Book Superheroes through Lectures, Readings, Activities, and Presentations.***

1. Understand the history of literary heroes and comic book superheroes and defining characteristics that make up the persona of a superhero.
2. Understand that the concept of a “hero” is one that spans diverse cultures and eras and can be perceived positively or negatively.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of the comic book as a unique artistic, narrative form and how that medium differs from other media, such as prose and film.
4. Analyze representative stories of comic book superheroes in order to interpret their styles, themes, and character traits and compare and contrast these traits with those of other comic book superheroes.
5. Identify important historical, cultural, and economic factors that have influenced comic book artists/writers.
6. Explore how comic book superheroes have influenced American culture and how we in turn have been influenced by this phenomenon.
7. Develop insight into our own personal aptitudes and qualities that could be construed as “heroic” and reflect upon our own heroic journeys.

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** Learning is a lifelong journey of discovery. My role as a teacher is to introduce students to the most important thinking of the ages as expressed in history, art, literature, and codes of conduct. Through meaningful exchanges I will lead the students to develop a common core of knowledge and to be able to apply the wisdom of the ages to their own lives so that they may become responsible, informed citizens who act ethically toward themselves and their fellow human beings, and most of all, to foster an appreciation of the joy of lifelong learning. In this course I will show students how to expand their knowledge of comic book superheroes to demonstrate how they are based on literary archetypes and how they have impacted our values and conduct.

**PART III. GRADING AND EVALUATION**

The final grade in DJLC 210 K will be computed as follows:

Introductory Presentation	15%
Three Short Papers and Presentations	60%

Note: Each presentation will count 10% for the paper and 10% for the oral presentation

Final Presentation	25%
Total	100%

**Grade:** The following grading scale will be used for this course:

93-100 = A	80-82 = B	67-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	77-79 = C+	60-66=D
87-89 = B+	73-76 = C	59-0 = F
83-86 = B	70-72 = C-	

**GRADING RUBRICS** will be used to evaluate both the written and oral components of this course. Please see Rubrics posted in Blackboard under “Course Information.”

**PART IV. ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**ASSIGNMENT I:**

**Day 3 (January 11, 2010):**

**Introducing Your Superhero:** In a Powerpoint presentation, tell us who your chosen superhero is. What are your character’s traits and origin? Tell us about your character’s creator.

**ASSIGNMENT II:**

**Day 4 (January 13, 2010):**

**Prepare a short paper and oral presentation in which you give a synopsis of 3 stories from the comics. What pattern are you beginning to see from your character’s situations?**

**ASSIGNMENT III:**

**Day 5 (January 15, 2010):**

**Prepare a short paper and oral presentation in which you summarize an article or chapter of a book from our Superhero library on any topic of interest relating to your superhero.**

**ASSIGNMENT IV:**

**Day 6 (January 17, 2010):**

Prepare a short paper and oral presentation in which you tell us about Your Hero's involvement with social issues, either historically or contemporary. The presentation may be based on a comic book story or an article or a combination.

**ASSIGNMENT V:**

**Days 7 and 8 (January 20 and 22, 2010):**

Prepare a **Final Powerpoint Presentation** in which you give us a profile of your superhero, his or her origin, strengths and weaknesses, exploits, villains, involvement with social issues, romantic involvement, secret identity, and changes over the years.

**PART V. UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES**

- A. ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Integrity and honesty are essential to the pursuit of knowledge and to establishment of mutual respect and trust among faculty, staff and students. Violations of the Academic Honesty Policy include, but are not limited to the following:
1. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Infringing on the academic rights of others, such as defacement or theft of library material.
  2. **Fabrication:** The intentional and unauthorized invention or falsification of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
  3. **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or unintentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.
  4. **Facilitation:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, including unauthorized collaboration on academic assignments.

Please refer to Course Documents for a complete statement of the Lynn University Academic Policy.

- B. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** If you require special accommodations under the ADA, please let me know. I will make every effort to meet them within the course, in addition to helping you make contact with other providers of services.
- C. IMPORTANT DATES:** The following is a list of important dates for the January 2009 Semester:

Beginning Date:        January 6, 2010

Ending Date: January 22, 2010

<b>January 2010</b>						
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**D. UNIVERSITY POLICY ON INCOMPLETES:**

A student who has not met the course requirements by the end of the semester and/or term may apply for an “I” (Incomplete). The grade of “I” reflects neither passing nor failing work, and it will not be included in the calculation of the grade point average.

In order for a student to be eligible to receive an incomplete for a course, (1) the student must provide to the dean of students documentation of the extenuating circumstance(s) that prevent him from satisfying the course requirements and learning outcomes of that particular course **and** (2) the student, at the time of applying for an incomplete, must have completed 2/3 of the term and have a passing grade.

The student will obtain and complete the incomplete application form (available online) and bring it to the dean of students with appropriate documentation. The dean of students will verify that the student’s application satisfies the eligibility criteria. If the application satisfies the eligibility criteria, then the dean of students will return the approved form to the student who will then take the form to the professor of the course. The professor and the student will draw out a contract, which includes, but is not limited to, all coursework to be completed and the deadline for this material to be submitted. After the student agrees to the terms of the contract and signs the form, the professor will take the contract to the dean of his college. The dean will then review the contract and sign the form if approved. The “I” is now official and the contract is binding. The dean of the college will distribute copies of the contract to the professor, the student, the dean of students and the Registrar. Each recipient will place the copied contract in the appropriate file. The professor will keep one copy and the original will be placed in the student’s file in the college of his major.

If the student fails to complete the course requirements pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract, the grade of “I” will convert to a final course grade of “W” (Withdrawal).

## ***E. COURSE POLICIES:***

- 1. Attendance.** Regular attendance is essential for student success and to contribute to the learning experience of classmates. Please be aware that instructors are required to report attendance on a weekly basis. This information is reported to your advisors, coaches, and parents.
- 2. Completing Class Work:** Each student is responsible for obtaining a copy of the text and completing all reading and written assignments and handing them in on time. Written assignments must be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. No late work will be accepted without a valid excuse such as documented illness (doctor's note) or family emergencies. Students involved in athletic or musical events must notify me in advance and make arrangements for missed work. Students are responsible for completing all required class work whether or not they are in class when the assignment is made. In the event of an absence, students must find out what assignments they missed. The opportunity to make up missed work will be given at the instructor's discretion. In some cases, otherwise unexcused late papers may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, in which case a penalty of 5 points per day, including holidays and weekends, may be assessed.

All students must retain copies of their own work: one hard paper copy and one copy on a disk. Please keep copies of all papers done for this class, including assignments returned by the instructor, in a notebook or folder.

- 3. Tardiness:** Late entrances and early departures are distracting to the instructor and the rest of the class and interfere with optimum learning. Consequently, tardies or early departures of 15 minutes late or more will be counted as an absence.
- 4. Classroom Conduct:** Any disruptive behavior in class or disrespect shown to the instructor or to fellow classmates will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action being taken. Students must turn all cell phones off during class and may not engage in text messaging, side conversations, leaving the class (except in an emergency) or other distracting behavior.

## **PART VI. COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Syllabus:**

#### **Day 1 (Wednesday, January 6, 2010):**

**Review Syllabus**

**Watch film: Super Heroes Unmasked**

**Who were your favorite superheroes?**

**Superhero Quiz**

<http://www.thesuperheroquiz.com/>

**Day 2 (Friday, January 8, 2010):**

**Literary Heroes**

**Discussion: What is a hero?**

**Day 3 (Monday, January 11, 2010):**

**Introducing Your Superhero:**

**What are your character's traits and origin? Tell us about your character's creator.**

**Day 4 (Wednesday, January 13, 2010):**

**Synopsis of 3 stories from the comics. What pattern are you beginning to see?**

**Day 5 (Friday, January 15, 2010):**

**Summarize an article or chapter of a book from our Superhero library.**

**Day 6 (Monday, January 18, 2010):**

**Tell us about Your Hero's Involvement with Social Issues, either historically or contemporary.**

**Day 7 (Wednesday, January 20, 2010):**

**Final Paper Presentations**

**Tell us about your hero's traits, origin, creation, exploits, enemies, weaknesses, involvement with social issues, any changes in the legend over the years. Costumes or props are optional.**

**Day 8 (Friday, January 22, 2010):**

**Final Paper Presentations; fill out grid**

**What are your heroic traits?**