

English Composition 111

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SUPERHERO CULTURE

Course Description

This course will focus largely on the concept of the superhero within American culture. After the course introductory materials, we will first read a graphic novel (*Watchmen*) and discuss the way in which the superhero has become a way of looking at not only the social conditions for their creation, but also the way in which they represent our cultural fears. After reading the graphic novel, we will move on to watching a popular TV series (*Heroes*) and examine the series in relationship to the items discussed in the graphic novel.

Required Course Materials

- *Watchmen* by Alan Moore
- *Heroes: SSN I*
- *Quick Access* (recommended)
 - While this text is recommended, I cannot express how much my handbook from my first year writing class helped me throughout my undergraduate experience. I would recommend purchasing this book, but it will NOT be required and there will be no penalty for students not having it.

Attendance

This class will be run in several different fashions. We will use class discussions, watch film clips in class, and we will, on several occasions, workshop our papers, as well as having in class writing assignments. Therefore, in order to completely succeed and receive full credit in both of these areas, students must both attend and participate. One week of missed classes will be permitted with no damage to student grades, after one week students will lose one letter grade, after two weeks students will lose two letter grades, and after three weeks students will no longer be able to pass the course.

Course Requirements and Grading

Participation	20%
Short In-class Writings	30% (10% each)
Essay One	15%
Final Essay	30%
Reading/Watching Quizzes	5%

Course Grading Scale

I use the plus-minus grading system of the university. Scale as Follows;

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

Participation

The structure of this class requires student engagement and conversation; no one wants to be sitting in class listening to me talking. The class environment should be one of critical thinking and, when appropriate, critical writing. Therefore, class participation is extremely important. Class participation also includes classroom disruptions. I will keep track of those students who are consistently tardy and will subtract for their participation score for each time a student is late after three. Also, I have a strict no cell phone policy which I will enforce. I ask that students leave their cell phones in either their pockets or bags during class and no texting will be permitted. First offenses will not be enforced and I will politely ask you to put the cell phone on silent and in your pocket or bag. If this becomes a consistent disruption, I will ask the student to leave the classroom and they will be marked as absent for that class period.

Reading/Watching Quizzes

Throughout the course of the semester if I get the impression that students are not keeping up with the work outside of the class I will administer no more than 5 quizzes to test reading and watching. The quizzes will not ask specifics, but will be more open ended and allow students to demonstrate that they read/watched the course materials outside of class.

Final Portfolios

I find it much more important to view each students work as a complete body and not on an assignment to assignment basis. The portfolio will contain your reflective letter, two essays of your choice (plus the drafts), and your in-class essay. You will have the opportunity to revise these two essays further to highlight your understanding of key concepts you mention in your reflective letter. Each assignment is required to be turned in by the due date on the syllabus and failure to do so will result in a one letter grade reduction for that assignment. No assignments will be accepted more than one class period late.

Plagiarism Policy:

The Composition Program in the Department of English at the University of Akron will enforce a strict policy regarding students submitting written work that constitutes Academic Dishonesty. Academic Dishonesty is defined as any of the following acts:

- *Turning in a paper written in whole or in part by another person;*
- *Copying, inserting, downloading, or otherwise including paragraphs or sections from a professional source into a paper without properly referencing it, as determined by the MLA system;*
- *Cheating, including allowing a classmate to use or copy from your work and altering or interfering with grading;*
- *Submitting work presented previously in another course, if contrary to the rules of either course;*
- *Turning in a paper whose contents include the exact words or paraphrases from sources not properly documented through referenced quotations, parenthetical citations, and a Works Cited page, as determined by the MLA system;*
- *Knowingly misrepresenting or fabricating in a paper the ideas of another, the student's experiences, or facts surrounding an event, observation, or sequence;*
- *Failing to document through parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page statistics, ideas, or facts not commonly known in a paper.*

The enforcement will be as follows:

- *In cases involving the submission of work wherein 20% or more of the content contains the work of non-referenced others and where the intent to deceive has been established, the student will receive an "F" for the course and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.*
- *In cases involving the submission of a paper written in whole or in part by another person, the student will receive an "F" for the course and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.*
- *In cases involving cheating or submission of a paper presented previously to another course, the student will receive an "F" for the paper and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.*
- *In cases involving the submission of work wherein less than 20% of the content contains the work of non-referenced others and where the intent to deceive has been established, the student will receive an "F" for the assignment.*
- *In cases involving misrepresentation or fabrication of ideas, experiences, or facts, the student will receive an "F" for the assignment.*
- *In cases involving inadequate or missing documentation for individual sentences or paragraphs, the student will be allowed to revise but can receive no higher than a "C" on the final revision.*

Acknowledgement of Understanding
Academic Dishonesty Policy

My signature below affirms that I understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. If I have any questions about the use of sources or how to document, I will ask my instructor for clarification before turning in any work for a grade. I understand that serious acts of academic dishonesty will result in my receiving an “F” for the course and that I could be subject to further disciplinary action.

Signature of Student

Date

(Tentative) Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Due:</u>
1	M	Syllabus/Intro	
	T	Course Intro	
	W	Quick Access Intro	
	F	Work in Class Essay 1	
2	M	Intro to Critical Reading	
	T	Cheever "The Swimmer"	
	W	Hemingway "Hills Like White Elephants"	
	F	Faulkner "A Rose for Emily"	
3	M	Watchmen Intro	Essay One Due
	T	Watchmen CH 1	
	W	Watchmen CH 2	
	F	Watchmen CH 3	
4	M	Watchmen CH 4	
	T	Watchmen CH 5	
	W	Watchmen CH 6	
	F	Watchmen CH 7	
5	M	Watchmen CH 8-9	
	T	Watchmen CH 10	
	W	Watchmen CH 11	
	F	Watchmen CH 12	

6	M	Wrap on Watchmen	
	T	Intro to Heroes/Essay2	
	W	Heroes #1 (in class)	
	F	Heroes #2	
7	M	Heroes #3	Essay Two Due
	T	Heroes#4	
	W	Heroes #5	
	F	Heroes #6/Mid Term	
8	M	Heroes #7	
	T	Heroes#8	
	W	Heroes #9	
	F	Heroes #10	
9	M	Heroes #11	
	T	Heroes#12	
	W	Heroes #13	
	F	Heroes #14	
10	M	Heroes #15	Mid Term Due
	T	Heroes#16	
	W	Heroes #17	
	F	Heroes #18	
11	M	Heroes #19	
	T	Heroes #20	
	W	Heroes #21	
	F	Heroes #22	

12	M	Heroes #23 (in class)	Essay Three In Class
	T	End of Heroes	
	W	End of Heroes	
	F	Essay Three (in class)	
13	M	SH in culture	
	T	SH in history	
	W	SH Wrap-up	
	F	SH Wrap-up	
14	M	Student Conferences	
	T	Student Conferences	
	W	Student Conferences	
	F	Student Conferences	
15	M	In Class Workshop	Final Portfolio Due During Finals Week
	T	In Class Workshop	
	W	In Class Workshop	
	F	In Class Workshop	