

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2026	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	LANG260		
Course Title	Superhero Comics, Films, and Shows		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	GHIM Wung Cheong	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Language Arts	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	This course maps the evolution of the superhero from its inception in American comic books of the 1930s to its current status as a dominant, globalized genre across comics, film, television, and anime. We will interrogate the superhero as a complex cultural artifact, examining how these narratives reflect, reinforce, and subvert societal conceptions of power, justice, ethics, identity, and trauma. The course moves chronologically and thematically through key periods: the establishment of archetypes, the "deconstruction" of superheroes in the late 20th century, the rise of the cinematic universe, and finally, the critical global reinterpretation of the genre. A major focus will be on Japanese manga and anime (including Chainsaw Man) as sites of genre hybridity, psychological exploration, and critique. Students will analyze primary sources alongside critical theory to develop a nuanced understanding of the superhero as a modern mythology in constant dialogue with its own history and the world it inhabits.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	N/A
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	As part of the iCLA program, by the end of the course, students will acquire (1) high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge; (2) the insight and skill they need to make connections, think critically and explore possibilities; (3) [a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams.

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	N/A				
Use of ICT	None				
Contents of class preparation and review	Reading assignments, revision, and research	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Feedback on mid-term and final papers by email.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation	20%	
Final in-class presentations	25%	
Mid-term paper	25%	
Final paper	30%	

Required Textbook(s)	Selected short readings will be provided.
Other Reading Materials/URL	None

Plagiarism Policy	<p>Plagiarism is one of the most common and serious forms of academic dishonesty, especially in writing courses. In this course, plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the appropriation of material (materials like words, ideas, illustrations, and structure) from another source (book, magazine, internet documents, and even writings of a fellow student), and presenting it as if it is your own work. It means that students who fail to give credit for referring to other source materials are also guilty of plagiarism.</p> <p>A student who is found guilty of plagiarism will be given a serious penalty, such as an automatic F for an assignment or an entire course depending on the nature of his/her act.</p>
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	None

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Introduction (This schedule is still tentative. You can take it as a "model" and get an idea of what to expect.)
Class 2	The Golden Age: Superman (Action Comics 1)
Class 3	Captain America (the movie, Captain America: The First Avenger)
Class 4	The Silver Age: Fantastic Four (Fantastic Four vol. 1)
Class 5	Spider-Man (Amazing Fantasy vol. 1)
Class 6	Vigilantes: Batman (Frank Miller's Batman: Year One)
Class 7	Daredevil (Frank Miller's Daredevil: The Man Without Fear)
Class 8	Watchmen 1 (Alan Moore's Watchmen and Zack Snyder's movie adaptation)
Class 9	Watchmen 2 (Alan Moore's Watchmen and Zack Snyder's movie adaptation)

Class 10	The Dark Knight trilogy 1 (Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins)
Class 11	The Dark Knight trilogy 2 (Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight Rises)
Class 12	Harley Quinn (episodes 1-5 of Season 1 of the TV series)
Class 13	Workshop for the Mid-term paper
Class 14	The MCU: Iron Man (the first Iron Man movie)
Class 15	Avengers: Endgame (Avengers: Endgame)
Class 16	Satire, Parody, and Pastiche: The Boys (the first episode of Season 1 of The Boys)
Class 17	Invincible (episodes 1, 2, and 8 of Season 1 of Invincible)
Class 18	Animated Superheroes: Justice League Dark: Apokolips War (movie by the same title)
Class 19	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (movie by the same title)
Class 20	Superhero Anime: My Hero Academia (episodes 1-3 of Season 1 of My Hero Academia)
Class 21	One-Punch Man (episodes 1-3 of Season 1 of One-Punch Man)
Class 22	Evolved Heroes: Char's Counter-attack (movie by the same title)

Class 23	Hathaway's Flash (movie by the same title)
Class 24	Devilman Crybaby (episodes 1-2, 7-10 of the animated series)
Class 25	Chainsaw Man (episodes 1 and 2 of Season 1, and the movie, Reze Arc)
Class 26	Conclusion
Class 27	Final presentations
Class 28	Final presentations
Class 29	Final presentations
Class 30	Final presentations