

POP CULTURE & MEDIA STUDIES

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

THIS COURSE EXPLORES THE CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF MEDIA STUDIES THROUGH THE RELATIONSHIP OF COMICS AND POPULAR CULTURE. HOW DOES WHAT WE WATCH, READ, AND LISTEN TO AFFECT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD AND LARGER SOCIAL SYSTEMS? WHY DO COMICS PERMEATE MANY OF THE FILMS, TELEVISION SHOWS AND FAN CULTURE THAT ENGROSSES US? HOW DOES POPULAR CULTURE FIT INTO IDEAS OF "LOW BROW" VS "HIGH BROW" CULTURE? DEVELOPING A LEXICON AND FRAMEWORK WITHIN MEDIA STUDIES AIDS OUR ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND REPRODUCTION OF GRAPHIC NARRATIVES IN U.S. POP CULTURE. ULTIMATELY, ADVANCING A DEEPER COMPREHENSION OF HOW COMICS AND POP CULTURE SHAPE OUR MATERIAL AND SOCIAL WORLD WILL OFFER INSIGHTS INTO OUR EXPERIENCE AS MEMBERS OF CONTEMPORARY U.S. SOCIETY.

Spring 2018
Tuesday & Thursday
4:00 - 5:20 pm
Conklin Hall 446

COMICS

ADAPTATION

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WELCOME!

I'll be your Instructor
Jennifer Caroccio.
Office hours are Tue 2-3 pm in
Conklin 246.
Email me at
j.caroccio@rutgers.edu



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LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. IDENTIFY WHAT CONSTITUTES POPULAR CULTURE AND HOW TO RELATES TO DIFFERENT FORMS OF MEDIA.
2. MAKE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND INSIGHTFUL COMMENTS ON THE GRAPHIC NARRATIVE FORM.
3. DEVELOP A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF MEDIA STUDIES AND HOW IT INTERSECTS WITH ISSUES OF RACE, CLASS AND GENDER.
4. COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY AND CRITICALLY IN WRITTEN AND DIGITAL FORMS.

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PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT

THE SUCCESS OF THIS CLASS DEPENDS ON YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION. WE WILL DISCUSS SENSITIVE OR CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS IN A RESPECTFUL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES. YOU ARE FREE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF, WHICH MEANS ALSO EVALUATING YOUR OWN THINKING PROCESS AND ASSUMPTIONS. DISPARAGING OR HARASSING COMMENTS ARE NOT TOLERATED.

YOU CAN FIND THE COURSE WEBSITE HERE:
[HTTPS://SPRINGPOP18.BLOGSPOT.COM/](https://springpop18.blogspot.com/)

NOTE

ONE-ON-ONE CONFERENCE: EVERY STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO MEET WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST ONCE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED ONE FORMAL ESSAY*, SIX BLOG ENTRIES, A MIDTERM AND A FINAL EXAM. LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION, IF SO, LOWERED BY ONE GRADE INTERVAL.

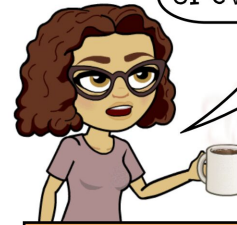
Your paper should be typed, 12 point font, an appropriate font type, double spaced, one inch margins throughout and include your last name and page number on the top corner of every page.

BLOG



Compose two blog posts each month (Feb, Mar & Apr) for a total of six entries; you can miss one. Entries should respond to the reading, which can be a question, comment, or critique. Be creative: use gifs, memes, videos, artwork or podcasts

COURSE WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://SPRINGPOP18.BLOGSPOT.COM/](https://springpop18.blogspot.com/)



ATTENDANCE

COME TO CLASS ON TIME, PREPARED WITH THE READING AND ASSIGNMENTS DUE. TWO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE ALLOWED BEFORE IT NEGATIVELY AFFECTS YOUR GRADE. SEE ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE RESTRICTED FROM COMING TO CLASS. MORE THAN 5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAILURE.

*YOUR PAPER SHOULD BE 1200-1500 WORDS.

REQUIRED TEXTS: ALL CAN BE FOUND ON BLACKBOARD EXCEPT UNCANNY X-MEN WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED HERE:
[HTTP://MARVEL.COM/COMICS/ISSUE/12460/UNCANNY_X-MEN_1963_141](http://marvel.com/comics/issue/12460/uncanny_x-men_1963_141)

- Aldama, Frederick Luis. "Multimediated Latinx Superheroes" *Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2017.
- Bartosch, Sebastian, and Andreas Stuhlmann. "Reconsidering Adaptation as Translation: The Comic in Between." *Studies in Comics* 4.1 (2013): 59-72. EBSCOhost. Web.
- Fawaz, Ramzi. Introduction. *The New Mutants: Superheroes and The Radical Imagination of American Comics*. New York: NYU, 2016.
- Holtzman, Linda. *Media Messages: What Film, Television, and Popular Music Teach Us About Race, Class, Gender, and Sexual Orientation*. Armonk, N.Y: M.E. Sharpe, 2000.
- McCloud, Scott. Chapter two. *Understanding Comics*. New York: Kitchen Sink Press, 1993.
- McLuhan, Marshall "The Medium is the Message." *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, MIT Press, 1964.
- Mey Rude, J. Skyler, and Rachel Stevens. "Trans Representations and Superhero Comics: A Conversation with " *Cinema Journal*, 1, 2015.
- Nama, Adilifu. Intro and "Color them Black." *Super Black: American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes*. Texas: University of Texas Press, 2011.
- Parker, Holt. "Toward a Definition of Popular Culture." *History and Theory*, no. 2, 2011, p. 147-170.
- Stuart Hall: "Notes on Deconstructing 'The Popular'" or Stuart Hall, "What is this Black in Black Popular culture?"
- Claremont, Chris, John Byrne ad Terry Austin. *Uncanny X-men #141-142*. Marvel, 1980.
- Whaley, Deborah E. *Black Women in Sequence: Re-inking Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime*. U. Seattle: Washington Press, 2016.

CLASS SCHEDULE*

TUE JAN 16

INTRODUCTIONS & HAVE ONE QUESTION ON SYLLABUS

THU JAN 18

MCLUHAN: "THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE,"

TUE JAN 23

HOLTZMAN: MEDIA MESSAGES

THU JAN 25

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE JAN 30

PARKER: "TOWARD A DEFINITION OF POPULAR CULTURE"

THU FEB 1

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE FEB 6

MCCLLOUD: UNDERSTANDING COMICS

THU FEB 8

MORRISON: SUPERGODS

TUE FEB 13

BARTOSCH AND STUHLMANN: "RECONSIDERING ADAPTATION AS TRANSLATION"

THU FEB 15

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE FEB 20

CLAREMONT: UNCANNY X-MEN #141-142

THU FEB 22

ESSAY TOPIC

TUE FEB 27

CLASS CANCELLED

THU MAR 1

CLASS CANCELLED

TUE MAR 6

MIDTERM REVIEW

THU MAR 8

MIDTERM

TUE MAR 13

SPRING

THU MAR 15

RECESS

TUE MAR 20

FAWAZ, RAMZI. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW MUTANTS:

THU MAR 22

ESSAY DRAFT DUE & 2 COPIES OF ESSAY TO CLASS

TUE MAR 27

ALDAMA: "MULTIMEDIATED LATINX SUPERHEROES,"

THU MAR 29

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE APR 3

NAMA, ADILIFU. INTRO AND "COLOR THEM BLACK."

THU APR 5

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE APR 10

WHALEY: BLACK WOMEN IN SEQUENCE

THU APR 12

ESSAY DUE

TUE APR 17

HALL, STUART "NOTES ON DECONSTRUCTING 'THE POPULAR'"

THU APR 19

DISCUSSION CONTINUES...

TUE APR 24

RUDE, SKYLER, AND STEVENS: "TRANS REPRESENTATIONS AND SUPERHERO COMICS: A CONVERSATION"

THU APR 26

REVIEW

FINAL EXAM TBD

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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A

"IF YOUR REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS IS APPROVED, YOU WILL RECEIVE A LETTER OF ACCOMMODATIONS (LOA)."

DISABILITY SERVICES

"RUTGERS UNIVERSITY WELCOMES STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES INTO ALL OF THE UNIVERSITY'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CONSIDERATION FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE REGISTRATION FORM, SCHEDULE AND COMPLETE AN INTAKE MEETING, AND SUBMIT APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION."

B

"WHICH YOU SHOULD PRESENT PRIVATELY TO THE INSTRUCTOR AS EARLY IN THE SEMESTER AS POSSIBLE."

"ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NOT RETROACTIVE AND ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY UPON SUBMISSION OF THE LOA TO THE INSTRUCTOR. PLEASE BEGIN THE PROCESS, BY COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE REGISTRATION FORM, AVAILABLE AT THE WEBSITE BELOW, APPLYING FOR SERVICES".

APPLYING FOR SERVICES:

[HTTPS://ODS.RUTGERS.EDU/STUDENTS/APPLYING-FOR-SERVICES](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services)

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES:

[HTTPS://ODS.RUTGERS.EDU/STUDENTS/DOCUMENTATION-GUIDELINES](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines)

LETTER OF ACCOMMODATIONS (LOA):

[HTTPS://ODS.RUTGERS.EDU/MY-ACCOMMODATION-S/LETTER-OF-ACCOMMODATIONS](https://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodation-s/letter-of-accommodations)

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES (ODS)

SUITE 219, PAUL ROBESON CAMPUS CENTER
(973) 353-5315
ODSNEWARK@RUTGERS.EDU

C

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY

"STUDENT ARE ADVISED TO PROVIDE TIMELY NOTIFICATION TO INSTRUCTORS ABOUT NECESSARY ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING UP THE WORK OR EXAMS ACCORDING TO AN AGREED-UPON SCHEDULE."

"RUTGERS UNIVERSITY IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING AN INTELLECTUAL AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH MISSIONS"

FIND MORE HERE:

[HTTP://ACADEMICINTEGRITY.RUTGERS.EDU/A](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)
[CADEMIC-INTEGRITY-POLICY/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)

PLAGIARISM IS WHEN YOU PRESENT SOMEONE ELSE'S IDEAS, WRITING, OR WORK AS YOUR OWN. IF YOU **INSUFFICIENTLY** CITE YOUR SOURCES YOU ARE **PLAGIARIZING**.

If you plagiarize...



YOU WILL FAIL THAT ASSIGNMENT, AND CAN POSSIBLY FAIL THE CLASS AND FACE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES CONTINUED...

LEARNING RESOURCES

WRITING CENTER (TUTORING AND
WRITING WORKSHOPS)
ROOM 126, CONKLIN HALL
(973) 353-5847
NWC@RUTGERS.EDU
[HTTPS://WWW.NCAS.RUTGERS.EDU/WRITING
CENTER](https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writing-center)

RUTGERS LEARNING CENTER
(TUTORING SERVICES)
ROOM 140, BRADLEY HALL
(973) 353-5608
[HTTP://WWW.NCAS.RUTGERS.EDU/RLC](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc)



Grades

IF YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT
YOUR GRADE TALK TO
THE INSTRUCTOR.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

ATTENDANCE &
PARTICIPATION: 20%
BLOG: 10%
ESSAY: 25%
MIDTERM: 15%
FINAL EXAM: 30%

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	90-100 %
B+	3.5	85-89 %
B	3.0	80-84 %
C+	2.5	75-79 %
C	2.0	70-74 %
D	1.5	60-69 %
F	0	0-59 %

HANG IN
THERE



P/NC (PASS/NO CREDIT) NO AFFECT ON GPA