IDH 2930 Superman Smashes the Klan
Spring 2024   1 Credit Hour

Course Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jon Mundorf (he/him) jmundorf@pky.ufl.edu
Class Number: 29717, Section 2417
Class Time: Mondays, Period 8 (3:00 PM - 3:50 PM)
Class Location: Little Hall 119
Office Hours: by appointment only, schedule via email

Course Description:
As film adaptations of graphic novels like *Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse*, *Black Panther*, and *The Avengers* maintain popular culture ubiquity, superhero narratives continue to have prominence in public discourse. But what do historical and contemporary superhero stories reveal about silences and single stories related to identity and society? More than images on pages, superhero graphic novels serve as texts that can open up critical conversations about vital socio-political realities.

This course will utilize *Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang (Author) and Gurihiru (Illustrator) as a vehicle for exploring questions such as: *How do stories influence our understanding of the world? Who gets to be a superhero? And what identities are centered in superhero narratives?* The intersection of identity and society will be discussed further through supplemental superhero narratives such as *Miles Morales*, *Ms. Marvel*, and *Black Panther*. Depending on student interests, we'll also discuss superhero narratives through collaborations with community institutions, such as The Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations at UF Law and Covey Comic Book Collection in UF's Special Collections (pending approval). Additionally, this course will function as a potential school university partnership with P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School students who are also reading superhero narratives as a method for investigating inequities and injustices. There will be opportunities for dialogue across groups to facilitate different identities and perspectives on the potential of superhero stories.

Superheroes can do more than save the world. Their stories create opportunities to challenge the status quo by centering experiences, ideas, and concepts that are often marginalized in broader society. Our end goal will be to contemplate how we can call in, challenge, and change socio-political realities through engagement with superhero narratives. No previous knowledge of superheroes or comics is required. This course is particularly important for undergraduates as they navigate how their identity further develops within a diverse campus community and society where they can use their voice as a positive asset for social reform.

Assignments and Grading Criteria:
Superheroes and Me Midterm Project: Students will investigate a superhero of their choosing and present their personal inquiry of that superhero to the class. The

assignment will be graded using a rubric related to superhero narratives developed with students.

Superhero Story Final Project: Students will create a superhero narrative that mirrors some aspect of their identity. There will be opportunities for students to share their story with the class as well as through other venues. The assignment will be graded using a rubric related to superhero narratives developed with students.

This course uses current UF grading policies for assigning grade points.

Course Goals:
1. Recognize how stories influence our understanding of identities and society
2. Discuss how superhero narratives open up critical conversations about vital socio-political realities
3. Challenge the status quo by centering experiences, ideas, and concepts that are often marginalized

Required Textbook:
Superman Smashes the Klan by Gene Luen Yang (Author) and Gurihiru (Illustrator)
ISBN: 1779504217

About Your Instructor:
Dr. Jon Mundorf is an award-winning teacher and university school assistant professor at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, the public K-12 lab school at the University of Florida. Dr. Mundorf enjoys sharing his classroom-based research on Universal Design for Learning, information literacy, inclusion, practitioner research, technology integration, and social justice with educators at conferences and workshops around the world.

University Policies and Statements

Class Attendance and Makeup Policy:
This course will comply and adhere to the University's attendance policies.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
The College of Education is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework. Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565 or www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Counseling and Student Health:
Students with academic concerns related to this course should contact the instructor in person or via email. If you find that you have trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, please be proactive in informing the instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution. Students may also occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with the instructor and/or to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center (352.392.1575). Please visit their website for more information at http://www.counseling.ufl.edu. Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from the Alachua County Crisis Center at 352.264.6789.

Honesty Policy:
As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines set forth in the University of Florida Rules - 6C1-4 Student Affairs, 6Cl-4.0l7 Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines. The following website contains details covering the academic honesty guidelines:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

In-Class Recording:
Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Plagiarism:
Believe it or not, plagiarism has become an issue for some students each semester. Be aware that plagiarism includes copying and pasting in text from PowerPoints and other class materials into your own papers or assignments (e.g., lesson plans). Plagiarism, in one or more instances, on any assignment will result in 0 points for that assignment.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The UF Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Online Course Evaluation Process:
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation

period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Health and Wellness: U Matter, We Care:
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352.392.1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Website for the **Counseling and Wellness Center** can be found at http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc

Other Important Information
University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). http://www.police.ufl.edu/

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Academic Resources:
E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. http://www.crc.ufl.edu/

Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Policy on Course Syllabi *UF, Academic Affairs, February 8, 2016*

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall,* 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints*:* http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

Grades in Canvas:
The average grade that is provided on Canvas is not your final grade. Grades that you can view on Canvas only reflect the graded assignments that were submitted online. Hardcopy submissions or participation grades are not calculated in the overall grade shown online.