



**FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

**2021 Winter Term 1**

***ENGL 394C (3/6) Interdisciplinary Studies in English Literature\****

***ENGL 395C (3/9) Popular Literature\*\****

***(3 credits)***

***Topic: Superheroes***

***Online Asynchronous Course (with optional synchronous discussions)***

*\*394C may only be taken twice with different topics*

*\*\*395C may only be taken 3 (THREE) times with different topics.*

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*The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies acknowledges that the land on which we are situated is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) People.*

*Professor: Dr. Marie H. Loughlin*

*Office Hours: Thursdays, 11-12pm, or  
by appointment (via Zoom in Canvas)*

*Email: through Canvas email*

*Emergency email: marie.loughlin@ubc.ca*

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*Graduate Teaching Assistant: Dana Penney*

*Office Hours: Tuesdays from 2 pm - 3 pm, or  
by appointment (via Zoom in Canvas)*

*Email: through Canvas email*

*Emergency email: penneydm@mail.ubc.ca*

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*Class Hours: No regularly scheduled lectures; for a discussion of this course's optional synchronous (online) aspects, see 'Course Format,' below.*

*Optional synchronous discussions via Canvas Zoom:*

*Selected Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 pm*

*See Canvas Module: 'Optional Synchronous Discussions' for a schedule.*

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## Academic Calendar Entry

### ***ENGL 394 (3/6) d Interdisciplinary Studies in English Literature***

Addresses English literature through interdisciplinary perspectives and practices, ranging from performance, to visual arts, to creative writing and comparative literature. This course may involve cross-discipline pedagogies, experiential learning, community-based learning and/or undergraduate research opportunities.

*Prerequisite:* One of ENGL 109, ENGL 112, ENGL 114, ENGL 150, ENGL 151, ENGL 153, ENGL 154, ENGL 155, ENGL 156 and third-year standing

### ***ENGL 395 (3/9) d Popular Literature***

An examination of one or more genres, writers, forms, themes, or major trends in popular literature. May not be taken for credit toward the English major, minor, honours or combined major.

*Prerequisite:* One of ENGL 109, ENGL 112, ENGL 114, ENGL 150, ENGL 151, ENGL 153, ENGL 154, ENGL 155, ENGL 156, APSC 176 and third-year standing.

## Course Format

Approximately 90% of the course will run asynchronously, with optional synchronous discussions. For a definition of asynchronous and synchronous, see below.

***Asynchronous:*** Refers to course instruction delivered in the form of materials that can be accessed and worked through at the student's own pace; these materials might include recorded lectures or power point demonstrations, required readings, etc.

***Synchronous:*** Some or all of the scheduled class hours are spent in a real-time, online virtual classroom, with the instructor and registered students in attendance; these class hours may be devoted to lecture, discussion, group work, or other real-time virtual learning activities. Consult your instructor for specifics.

## Course Overview, Content and Objectives

Beginning in the patriotic propaganda of WWII, superheroes have been present during every North American social, cultural, and political crisis, including the atomic age and the Cold War of the 1950s, the struggle for racial and gender equality of the 1960s and 70s, and the events of 9/11 and 'the War on Terror.' Although this figure reaches back to ancient myth, legend and history, the North American superhero charts the shifting fantasies and anxieties of the modern age. Examining comic books, movies, and popular literature, this course will explore the origins and development of seminal American superheroes, such as Wonder Woman, Batman, Black Panther, and Doctor Strange, analyzing how these figures have changed in response to major social, cultural, and political movements.

## Learning Outcomes (LOs)

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. apply the historical, cultural, and literary contexts necessary to evaluate the past and present representations of the superhero;
2. generate new analyses of the superhero and superhero narratives through a synthesis of the critical literature related to the superhero from interdisciplinary perspectives (e.g., literary studies, feminism, cultural materialism, history, psychology, and cultural studies), paying particular attention to issues of genre, race, gender, technology, identity and the body; and



3. further develop university-level critical reading, writing, and research skills to produce critical analyses in the following genres: the media scene analysis and the academic research paper.

See below for a linking of learning outcomes to assignments.

**Additional Course Requirements:**

Both 394C and 395C students will be expected to view the movies listed below, and to read the required material, including various comic book issues, selections from ancient myth and epic, as well as two short novels. There is additional critical reading for 394C students. Where possible, students will be directed to those items available free via the UBC-Okanagan Library.

**Assignments, Evaluation Criteria ‘and Grading**

The course is graded out of 100%, and 50% constitutes a pass.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

***394C: SUPERHEROES FOR ENGL MAJORS, MINORS, AND COMBINED MAJORS***

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>% AND LOS</b>
Oct 8	Scene Analysis (1,000 words)	25%
Nov 26	Term Project (2,000 words; or a 22-26 minute podcast)	25%
Various; see schedule	Quizzes (4 quizzes @ 5% each; multiple choice)	20%
Various; see schedule	Participation (5 discussion posts @ 100 words each)	5%
Exam period	Final Exam (approximately 500 words)	25%

**NB:** ENGL 394C students must write approximately 5,000 words over a variety of assignments to meet the ENGL major program criteria for upper-level ENGL courses. In consideration of the online nature of the course, the writing here comes to 4,000 words.

***395C: SUPERHEROES FOR OTHER DEGREE STUDENTS***

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>% and LOS</b>
Oct 8	Scene Analysis (500 words)	25%
Nov 26	Term Project (1,000 words; or 12-15 minute podcast)	25%
Various: see schedule	Quizzes (4 quizzes @ 5% each; multiple choice)	20%
Various: see schedule	Participation (5 discussion posts; self-determined length)	5%
Exam period	Final Exam (approximately 500 words)	25%

For further information about assignments, see the Canvas module, ‘Assignments: Summary Description’  
For the course grading rubrics, see the Canvas module, ‘Grading Rubrics.’



## **Required Readings and Videos**

Unless otherwise noted, the required reading, listening and viewing are identical for 394C Superheroes for ENGL Majors and 395C Superheroes for Other Degree Students.

For the additional reading required for 394C students, see below.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

#### ***POPULAR LITERATURE***

Kaufman, Andrew. Kaufman, Andrew. *All My Friends Are Superheroes*. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Toronto: Coach House, 2013. [available at: UBCO Library: e-book].

Grossman, Austin. *Soon I Will Be Invincible*. New York: Pantheon, 2007. Short-listed for the 2007 John Sargent Sr. First Novel Prize [available as a print book through the UBCO bookstore; as a Kindle-enabled book at Amazon.ca and Amazon.com]

#### ***ANCIENT MYTH, EPIC, HISTORY, AND SCRIPTURE:***

All of the following are instructor-edited pdf. documents. You can find them on Canvas: 'Module: Required Reading and Viewing.'

Superman and Scripture: The Story of Jesus

The Avengers' Ancient Precedents: The Story of Jason and the Argonauts

#### **REQUIRED ADDITIONAL READING: 394C: SUPERHEROES FOR ENGL MAJORS STUDENTS ONLY**

Batman, Robin, and Heroic Friendship: The Story of Achilles & Patroclus

Wonder Woman's Ancestors: The Story of the Amazons in Ancient Epic

#### ***COMIC BOOKS***

For assistance in finding the correct issues (as below) consult the Canvas module 'Required Reading and Viewing.' There you will find two documents that walk you through finding the issue you're looking for in the available comics databases: 'Required Reading: Comics' and '394-395C Comic Book Search Guide with Pictures.'

**MARVELL COMICS:** Available from *Marvell Unlimited (by subscription), the Marvel Comics App, or Comixology (An Amazon Company)*.

##### **Spider-Man**

*The Amazing Fantasy* #15 (1962)

*The Amazing Spider-Man* #36 (Dec 2001): 'The Black Issue' or 'The 9/11'

##### **Dr. Strange**

*Doctor Strange* #1 (2015)

*Doctor Strange* #9 (2018)

##### **X-Men**

*X-Men: Magneto Testament* (2008-2009)



**Black Panther**

*Black Panther*, Issues #1-4 (Jul-Oct, 1988)

**DC COMICS:** Available from Comixology (An Amazon Company) only.

**Superman**

*The Man of Steel* #1 and #6 (1986)

**Batman**

*Batman: A Death in the Family*, Parts 1-4 (1988)

**COMICS: REQUIRED ADDITIONAL READING: 394C: SUPERHEROES FOR ENGL MAJORS**  
**STUDENTS ONLY**

*Batman: Detective Comics* #27: Special Edition (Batman 75 Day Comic) (2014)

*Sensation Comics* #35 (Sept 1944)

*Wonder Woman* Vol 2 #1 (Feb 1987)

**CRITICAL ESSAYS: REQUIRED ADDITIONAL READING: 394C: SUPERHEROES FOR ENGL MAJORS**  
**STUDENTS ONLY**

There are 3 required critical essays for this course. Please see the Canvas module 'Required Reading' for links to the following in the UBCO Database.

**Week 2:**

Ricker, Adam. "The Third Side of the Coin: Constructing Superhero Comics Culture as Religious Myth" (2015) (Links to an external site.)

**Week 4:**

Taylor, Aaron. "'He's Gotta Be Strong, and He's Gotta Be Fast, and He's Gotta Be Larger Than Life': Investigating the Engendered Superhero Body" (2007)

**Week 7:**

Pagello, Frederico, "The 'Origin Story' is the Only Story: Seriality and Temporality in Superhero Fiction from Comics to Post-Television" (2017)

**REQUIRED VIEWING**

All of these movies are available for free through one or other of UBCO Library's streaming services: Criterion-on-demand, or Audi Cine Films.

***Criterion-on-demand Streaming Service [UBCO Library]***

*Superman* (1978) & *Superman Returns* (2006)

*The Dark Knight* (2008)

*Wonder Woman* (2017)

*X-Men* (2000)

***Audio Cine Films Streaming Service [UBCO Library]***

*Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017)

*Dr. Strange* (2016)

*The Avengers* (2012)

*Black Panther* (2018)



## Course Schedule

### WEEK 1 (SEPT 9): INTRODUCTION

Synchronous Session

Introduction to Course structure, assignments, content

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):*

A Brief History of Comic Book Censorship

SEPT 9

3:30-4:15

Zoom Meeting

### WEEK 2 (SEPT 14, 16): THE SUPERHERO: ANCIENT TO MODERN

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):*

How Superheroes Became a Transmedia Phenomena

*Required Critical Essay: 394C Superheroes for ENGL Majors ONLY*

Adam Ricker's "The Third Side of the Coin: Constructing Superhero Comics Culture as Religious Myth" (2015) [See Canvas 'Required Reading']

Sept 13-17:

Discussion

Post 1 Due

(1%)

### WEEK 3 (SEPT 21, 23): KAUFMAN, *ALL MY FRIENDS ARE SUPERHEROES*

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Kaufman's *All My Friends as Superhero Novel*

*Required Reading:* Kaufman's *All My Friends Are Superheroes* (novella)

Sept 20-24:

Discussion

Post 2 (1%)

### WEEK 4 (SEPT 28, 30): DC'S SUPERMAN: THE FIRST SUPERHERO I

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Superman: American National Icon

*Required Reading:* Byrne's *The Man of Steel* #1 and #6 (1986)

*Required Critical Essay: 394C Superheroes for ENGL Majors ONLY*

Aaron Taylor's "He's Gotta Be Strong, and He's Gotta Be Fast, and He's Gotta Be Larger Than Life': Investigating the Engendered Superhero Body" (2007)

Sept 28-30:

Quiz #1 (5%)

### WEEK 5 (OCT 5, 7): DC'S SUPERMAN: THE FIRST SUPERHERO II

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Superman Goes to the Movies

*Required Reading:* Superman and Scripture: The Story of Jesus  
(Canvas doc: 'Required Reading' Module)

*Required Viewing:* Richard Donner's *Superman: The Movie* (1978)  
Bryan Singer's *Superman Returns* (2006)

Oct 8:

Scene Analysis

Due (25%)

### WEEK 6 (OCT 12, 14) DC'S BATMAN: THE DAMAGED SUPERHERO

**October 11: Thanksgiving (University closed)**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Batman with and without Robin

*Required Viewing:* Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* (2008)

*Required Reading:* *A Death in the Family*, #1-4 (1988)

OCT 12:

Optional

Discussion 1

*The Dark Knight*



**WEEK 7 (OCT 19, 21): SPIDER-MAN: THE ACCIDENTAL SUPERHERO**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture)*

*Required Reading:*

*Amazing Fantasy* #15 (1962)

*The Amazing Spider-Man* #36 (Dec 2001):

‘The Black Issue’ or ‘The 9/11’ Issue

*Required Viewing:* Jon Watts’ *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017)

*Required Critical Essay:* 394C Superheroes for ENGL Majors **ONLY**

Pagello, Frederico, “The “Origin Story” is the Only Story: Seriality and Temporality in Superhero Fiction from Comics to Post-Television” (2017) [Link in Canvas ‘Required Reading’]

**Oct 19-21:**  
Quiz #2 (5%)

**Oct 21:**  
Optional  
Discussion 2:  
*Spider-Man:*  
*Homecoming*

**WEEK 8 (OCT 26, 28): DC’S WONDER WOMAN: THE FEMALE SUPERHERO**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Dana Penney on *Wonder Woman* (2017)

*Required Viewing:* Patty Jenkins’ *Wonder Woman* (2017)

*Required Comics:* 394C Superheroes for ENGL Majors **ONLY**

*Sensation Comics* #35 (Sept 1944)

*Wonder Woman* Vol 2 #1 (Feb 1987)

**Oct 25-29**  
Discussion  
Post 3 (1%)

**Oct 28:**  
Optional  
Discussion 3:  
*Wonder Woman*

**WEEK 9 (NOV 2, 4): DOCTOR STRANGER AND 1960S COUNTERCULTURE**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Doctor Strange and Orientalism

*Required Viewing:* Scott Derrickson’s *Doctor Strange* (2017)

*Required Reading:* *Doctor Strange* #1 (2015) and *Doctor Strange* #9 (2019)

**Nov 1-5**  
Discussion  
Post 4 (1%)

**Nov 4:**  
Optional  
Discussion 4:  
*Dr. Strange*

**WEEK 10 (NOV 8-12): MIDTERM BREAK**

**NOVEMBER 11: REMEMBRANCE DAY (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)**

**WEEK 11 (NOV 16, 18): MARVEL’S X-MEN AND THE HOLOCAUST**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture)*

*Required Viewing:* Bryan Singer’s *X-Men* (2000)

*Required Reading:* *Magneto: Testament* (2008-2009)

**Nov 15-19:**  
Discussion  
Post 5 (1%)

**WEEK 12 (NOV 23, 25): MARVEL’S THE AVENGERS AND THE SUPERHERO TEAM**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture)*

*Required Reading:* The Story of Jason and the Argonauts  
(see Canvas: ‘Required reading’)

*Required Viewing:* Joss Whedon’s *The Avengers* (2012)

**Nov 23-25:**  
Quiz #3 (5%)

**Nov 26:**  
Term Project  
Due (25%)



**WEEK 13 (NOV 30, DEC 2): MARVEL'S BLACK PANTHER**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Race and the Superhero

*Required Reading:* *Black Panther* #1-4 (Jul-Oct, 1988)

*Required Viewing:* Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* (2018)

**Nov 30**

Optional

Discussion 5:  
*Black Panther*

**WEEK 14 (DEC 7): GROSSMAN'S SOON I WILL BE INVINCIBLE**

*Required Listening (Recorded Lecture):* Supervillains

*Required Reading:* Grossman's *Soon I Will Be Invincible*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>: Last Day of Classes (for most faculties)**

**Dec 7-9:**

Quiz #4 (5%)

**Final Examinations:**

The examination period for Term 1 of Winter 2021 is December 10 to December 22, inclusive. Except in the case of examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 27-hour period) or unforeseen events, students will be permitted to apply for out-of-time final examinations only if they are representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. Unforeseen events include (but may not be limited to) the following: ill health or other personal challenges that arise during a term and changes in the requirements of an ongoing job.

Further information on Academic Concession can be found under Policies and Regulation in the *Okanagan Academic Calendar* <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>

**Indigenous Programs and Services**

The primary goal of the Aboriginal Programs and Services is to provide culturally appropriate services and support to First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. Please contact us if you have any questions or inquiries. Web: <http://students.ok.ubc.ca/aboriginal/welcome.html>

**International Programs and Services**

International Programs and Services (IPS) provides advising, transition services and programs for international students, and IPS works to foster an intercultural campus community where differences are embraced and respected and adapting is multidirectional. In response to COVID-19, International Program and Services have put together a page with important resources and frequently asked questions regarding immigration and health insurance. Web: <http://students.ok.ubc.ca/international/welcome.html>

**Academic Integrity**

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.





A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at:

<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

And on the FCCS site here: <https://fccs.ok.ubc.ca/student-resources/academic-integrity/>

### **Student Learning Hub**

The Student Learning Hub (LIB 237) is your go-to resource for free math, science, writing, and language learning support. The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and year levels to access a range of supports that include **tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as help with study skills and learning strategies**. For more information, please visit the Hub's website (<https://students.ok.ubc.ca/student-learning-hub/>) or call 250-807-9185.

### **Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) Program**

AIM is a program that provides help with academic integrity (AI) issues for undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact the Student Learning Hub (<https://students.ok.ubc.ca/student-learning-hub/>) and ask specifically for an AIM appointment.

### **Library Information**

The **Library** is available for research support and can be accessed [here](#).

### **UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre**

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. If you require academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Centre located in the University Centre building (UNC 215).

General inquiries or students new to the DRC can reach us by emailing [drc.questions@ubc.ca](mailto:drc.questions@ubc.ca)

Web: <http://students.ok.ubc.ca/drc/welcome.html>

### **UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office**

Through leadership, vision, and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office (EIO) develops action strategies in support of efforts to embed equity and inclusion in the daily operations across the campus. The EIO provides education and training from cultivating respectful, inclusive spaces and communities to understanding unconscious/implicit bias and its operation within in campus environments. UBC Policy 3 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of BC's Human Rights Code. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, educational programs, discrimination or harassment please contact the EIO (UNC 325H)

Email: [equity.ubco@ubc.ca](mailto:equity.ubco@ubc.ca)

Web: [www.equity.ok.ubc.ca](http://www.equity.ok.ubc.ca)

### **Health & Wellness**

Health and Wellness offers a range of student health and wellness services, including a health clinic, counsellors, and health promotion programs. Students are encouraged to stay at home if they have a minor or communicable illness (such as flu-like symptoms) to prevent further spread of illness to other students, staff, or faculty. If students are too ill to attend class, the student should contact the instructor immediately and submit a "Self Declaration of Absence Due to Illness or Injury" form: [Student Declaration of Absence Due to Illness or Injury \(PDF\)](#)



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Please note: Use of the self-declaration form during the final exam period is not accepted—students are advised to communicate directly with their instructor if they are sick and unable to write final examinations. This declaration is not an exemption from any exams, papers, or projects that were missed during the time of absence and does not modify any academic obligations.

If students would like to access a UBC physician, nurse or counsellor, please call our office at 250 807-9270 or visit our website: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/>

The UBC Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a free, 24/7 wellness resource for students. Services include personal counselling, life coaching, group programs and more, based on your needs: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/student-assistance-program/>

### **FCCS Communications Portal**

Consider signing up for our FCCS Communications portal for students in our undergraduate and graduate programs in Canvas.

This one-stop space will be used to keep students informed and up to date with important information related to your academic matters as well as updated on FCCS and campus events.

Self enrol: <https://canvas.ubc.ca/enroll/3KBYFY>

### **SAFEWALK**

*Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250.807.8076. For more information, visit: <http://security.ok.ubc.ca/welcome.html>*