

Analyzing Comics Syllabus

Course Description: Analyzing Comics exposes students to classic story arcs and individual issues that have shaped comic and graphic novel history. The course begins by examining the physical layout and structure of comics, which will allow students to analyze and critique comics from the golden to modern ages. Through these varied readings, discussions, mini-papers, and creative projects, students will examine the historical, social, literary, and aesthetic value of comics and graphic novels.

Course Outline:

Unit 1 - Theory of Comics: Understanding Comics

- A. Comic Terminology
- B. Parts of a Comic
 - 1. Panel
 - 2. Gutter
 - 3. Art Styles
 - 4. Coloring
 - 5. Lettering

Unit 2 – Origin of the Superhero: History through Heroes

- A. 1920s & 30s – Great Depression
 - 1. Superman
 - 2. Batman
- B. 1940s – War, Nationalism, and Women’s Rights
 - 1. Captain America
 - 2. Wonder Woman
- C. 1960s – Civil Rights, Cold War, and Space Race
 - 1. X-Men
 - 2. Fantastic Four
 - 3. Hulk
 - 4. Spiderman
 - 5. Black Panther

Unit 3 – Transformation of the Medium: Humanizing Heroes

- A. *Green Lantern Green Arrow*
 - 1. Pollution
 - 2. Addiction
 - 3. Racism
 - 4. Sexism
 - 5. Poverty
- B. *Daredevil: Born Again*
- C. *The Dark Knight Returns*

Unit 4 – Modern Age of Comics: Diversifying Heroes

- A. *Hawkeye*
 - 1. Modern Social Issues
- B. *Miles Morales: The Ultimate Spiderman*
 - 1. Black and Hispanic Descent
- C. *Ms. Marvel*
 - 1. Pakistani-American Teenager from NJ
- D. *Young Avengers*
 - 1. LGBT Character Representation
- E. *The Shadow Hero*
 - 1. Chinese American Superhero

Assessments: Discussion, Comic Study Guides, Comic Reviews, Panel to Panel Breakdown, Panel Transitioning Comic Advertisement, Series of Sequential Art Analyses, Historical Analysis Multimedia Presentation, Sequential Art Evaluation, Superhero PSA, Superhero Trailer