Humanities Seminars Program
Spring 2016

“Men In Tights, Women Who Fight: Gender, Race, & Superheroes”
Monica J. Casper

Details
Tuesdays, 10 AM - Noon
March 1 - April 5 (no class on March 15)
Dorothy Rubel Room, UA Poetry Center
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Description
Superman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Batman, Captain America, Green Lantern, Iron Man, Black Widow—the list of America’s superheroes is long. Comic books, TV, and cinema have long built up the appeal of superheroes, and they remain ever popular. Embodiments of cultural meanings, social practices, and political imaginaries, superheroes creatively tell us stories about ourselves. Historically, representations of superheroes have been connected to national security and the Cold War, changing gender roles, racial stereotypes, and environmental issues. In this course, we attend to gender, race, and sex as they play out in the bodies, lives, and storylines of America’s superheroes. We ask, for example: What can Wonder Woman’s history tell us about gender and sex in the 20th century? How do Batman and Superman differently represent masculinity? What can Monica Rambeau, Storm, and Ms. Marvel tell us about intersections of race and gender? And what do superheroes reveal about national identity, cultural memory, and collective hope?
Required materials are available at the UA Bookstore, except where otherwise noted.

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**Week 1, March 1**

**Read**


**In-Class Viewing**

“Wonder Woman: Season 1 Tribute”

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**Week 2, March 8**

**Read**


**In-Class Viewing**

“Supergirl: First Look”

“Max Max: Fury Road clip”
Week 3, March 22

Read


In-Class Viewing

“Wham! Bam! Islam!” trailer/interviews

Week 4, March 29

Read


DC Comics. *Batman. A Simple Case (#44)*. 2015. ISSN: 2164-8735. [Note: This text is available for sale at "Heroes and Villains" at 4533 E. Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85711.]

In-Class Viewing

"Can you Name 7 Superheroes of Color?"
Read


In-Class Viewing

“A History of Queer Characters in DC Comics”

Recommended Reading


