

GENERAL STUDIES COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM

Course information:

*Copy and paste **current** course information from [Class Search/Course Catalog](#).*

College/School	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Department/School	School of International Letters and Cultures
Prefix:	SLC	Number:	344
Title:	Classics and Comics		Units:
			3

Course description:

Is this a cross-listed course?	Yes	If yes, please identify course(s):	LAT/GRK
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Is this a shared course?	No	If so, list all academic units offering this course:
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*Note- For courses that are crosslisted and/or shared, a letter of support from the chair/director of **each** department that offers the course is required for **each** designation requested. By submitting this letter of support, the chair/director agrees to ensure that all faculty teaching the course are aware of the General Studies designation(s) and will teach the course in a manner that meets the criteria for each approved designation.*

Is this a permanent-numbered course with topics?	No
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If yes, all topics under this permanent-numbered course must be taught in a manner that meets the criteria for the approved designation(s). It is the responsibility of the chair/director to ensure that all faculty teaching the course are aware of the General Studies designation(s) and adhere to the above guidelines. **Chair/Director Initials**
_____ (Required)

Requested designation: Humanities, Arts and Design–HU **Mandatory Review:** No

*Note- a **separate** proposal is required for each designation.*

Eligibility: Permanent numbered courses **must** have completed the university’s review and approval process. For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact Phyllis.Lucie@asu.edu.

Submission deadlines dates are as follow:

For Fall 2018 Effective Date: October 1, 2017

For Spring 2019 Effective Date: March 10, 2018

Area(s) proposed course will serve:

A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study.

Checklists for general studies designations:

Complete and attach the appropriate checklist

- [Literacy and Critical Inquiry core courses \(L\)](#)
- [Mathematics core courses \(MA\)](#)
- [Computer/statistics/quantitative applications core courses \(CS\)](#)
- [Humanities, Arts and Design core courses \(HU\)](#)
- [Social-Behavioral Sciences core courses \(SB\)](#)
- [Natural Sciences core courses \(SQ/SG\)](#)
- [Cultural Diversity in the United States courses \(C\)](#)
- [Global Awareness courses \(G\)](#)
- [Historical Awareness courses \(H\)](#)

A complete proposal should include:

- Signed course proposal cover form
- [Criteria checklist](#) for General Studies designation being requested
- Course catalog description
- Sample syllabus for the course
- Copy of table of contents from the textbook and list of required readings/books

It is respectfully requested that proposals are submitted electronically with all files compiled into one PDF.

Contact information:

Name	Paul Arena	E-mail	paul.arena@asu.edu	Phone	602 421-5077
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Department Chair/Director approval: (Required)

Chair/Director name (Typed):	Nina Berman	Date:	9/12/17
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Chair/Director (Signature):		9.14.2017
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Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN [HU]

Rationale and Objectives

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of art work and design.

The Humanities, Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies Program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of art work and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

Revised April 2014

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

ASU - [HU] CRITERIA			
HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN [HU] courses must meet <i>either</i> 1, 2 or 3 <i>and</i> at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria A CENTRAL AND SUBSTANTIAL PORTION of the course content.			
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Concerns the interpretation, analysis, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the historical development of textual traditions.	Syllabus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Concerns the interpretation, analysis, or engagement with aesthetic practices; and/or the historical development of artistic or design traditions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. In addition, to qualify for the Humanities, Arts and Design designation a course must meet one or more of the following requirements:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on the analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Concerns aesthetic systems and values, especially in literature, arts, and design.	Syllabus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Emphasizes aesthetic experience and creative process in literature, arts, and design.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Concerns the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.	Syllabus
		THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE [HU] DESIGNATION EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN:	
		• Courses devoted primarily to developing skill in the use of a language.	
		• Courses devoted primarily to the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.	
		• Courses devoted primarily to teaching skills.	

Course Prefix	Number	Title	General Studies Designation
SLC	344	Classics and Comics	HU

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
2. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation of written, aural, or visual texts, and/or the historical development of textual traditions.	This course provides an introduction and survey of a large collection of American comic books and graphic novels, in order to understand the characteristics, history, mythology, and development over time of the American superhero tradition as a literary and visual genre.	Throughout the syllabus; the readings and lectures focus as one of the primary themes of the class on the three iconic figures of the American Superhero: Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Students are required to trace the development of these three figures from their earliest iterations in the 1930s and 1940s through their most modern revisions and retellings. Students are asked to prove their familiarity with the histories and mythologies of these characters in quizzes and the final exam.
4b Concerns aesthetic systems and values, literary and visual arts	Discussions of the literary and visual aesthetics of the comic book tradition are a large part of the class, with particular emphasis on the unique combination of literature and art that is native to the graphic novel genre. These discussions often focus on the comparative mythologies of modern graphic novels and that of the classical Greeks and Romans, with particular emphasis on literary and visual themes.	Very fruitful discussions of topics such as the similarities between Hercules and Superman are accompanied by powerpoint presentations that highlight the remarkably similar visual iconography between the two traditions. Discussion of the differences between Odysseus and Batman are used to illustrate the somber, shaded realism in the art of recent graphic novel presentations of the latter. The ancient Greek tradition of the Amazons with regard to Wonder Woman allow for discussion and comparison of the portrayal of heroic females in ancient and modern contexts both literary and visual. Student responses both in class and in more formal online responses to discussion questions are required. Finally, while comic books and graphic novels are the primary focus as the "canon" of superhero mythology, some attention is also paid in lectures to film and television adaptations of these stories, and students are allowed to use these adaptations as sources for the final project.

<p>4d. Deepen awareness of the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.</p>	<p>In order to foster comprehension and deepen student awareness of comic books and graphic novels as literature, selected literary and mythological traditions of the ancient Greeks and Romans are used as a model, and the course engages in a great deal of comparative analysis of the two traditions.</p>	<p>As a second major theme of the class, students are required to become familiar with select ancient Greek and Roman literary traditions, including the wide variety of literature focused on Hercules and the Trojan War, as well as more focused topics such as the Homeric Hymns and the mythology of the Amazons. Finally, the classical tradition of Ancient Greek and Roman stories retold in a graphic novel format is explored through titles such as Frank Miller's 300 and Shanower's Age of Bronze. Students are required to analyze Superhero stories in comparison to ancient Greek and Roman literary traditions through two short papers and a significant final group project.</p>

Classics and Comics SLC/LAT/GRK 344

Paul M. Arena

LL 13 TTH 12:00-1:15pm

Office: LL164G Office Hours: TTH 10:00-10:55am (online); F 1-2:30pm
outside of office hours, email me for an appointment

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email: pmarena@asu.edu

Course Objectives:

This course provides an introduction and survey of a large collection of American comic books. Modern comics contain an enormous and diverse range of content — much of our focus in this course will be on the American “superhero” tradition. Indeed, this American “superhero” tradition has its own history and mythology that lends itself to a very direct comparison to the cultural and mythological traditions of Greece and Rome. So in addition to the comics, we shall also be looking closely at the texts of Classical authors to compare the two traditions. Finally, we shall also look at several comics that are direct modern retellings of Classical subjects. All of this will provide a very rich experience, exploring the connections between Classics and Comics.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Know the basic facts about the history of American Superhero Comics, and the general evolution of the genre; how these comic have changed with American culture, and how Classical themes have been a large part of this development.
- Comprehend and interpret comics as literature, placing them within the framework of their cultural history, as well as other traditions.
- Learn to appreciate how Greco-Roman history and myths are retold in popular culture, and how this reception is an essential part of the Classical Tradition.
- Think critically about the reception of comics, how they affect their audience, taking into account factors ranging from, artistic techniques, production and the intended audience.

Grading:

Graded material for the semester shall include: **two short papers** (Nov 5, Dec 3; 20%), **2 quizzes** (20%), **a group presentation** (20%) and the **final exam** (Finals Week; 25%).

For my expectations regarding papers and the exam, I shall provide an explanation along with essay topics in separate documents available on BB. In addition, students are required to post “responses” to the weekly reading assignments. Most weeks I shall provide a few study questions for our frequent close readings of assigned comics and texts. You will respond to these on BB via the “response” forum (More on this below.)

Your participation in these discussions will reflect greatly upon your response/attendance/participation grade (15% of final grade.)

If you have any questions about class or wider academic interests please do not hesitate to email or come and see me in my office hours or at some arranged time.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected. Quizzes cannot be made-up unless there is a documented emergency.

Book List Available at the ASU Bookstore (aka “Sun Devil Campus Store”):

Scott McCloud, Understanding Comics and Trzaskoma, Anthology of Classical Myth

Comics List Available at ASU Bookstore*:

Frank Miller *Batman Year One*

Grant Morrison *All-Star Superman*

William Moulton Marston *Wonder Woman Chronicles Vol. 1*

Brad Meltzer *Justice League of America “Tornado’s Path”*

Geoff Johns *Justice League Vol. 1 (New 52) “Origin”*

Brian Azzarello *Wonder Woman Vol. 3 (New 52) “Iron”*

Mark Waid *Kingdom Come*

Geoff Johns *Batman Earth One*

Frank Miller *300*

Eric Shanower *Age of Bronze Vol. 1*

*There will be extra HARD copies for reading in Hayden Reserve, IN ADDITION, most of these comic books are readily available in digital formats

n.b. The above list refers to the titles of the books and comics I ordered for the class. The ASU bookstore should stock most of these. The bookstore may not be able to get trades in sufficient copies for all the books. HOWEVER, as noted above, you will have access to ALL the comics for this course at Hayden Library Reserve:
<http://lib.asu.edu/access/reserves> Also, digital options for comics will also be discussed for those of you who are so inclined.

Groups: I shall divide the students of the course up into 6-8 groups (or “teams”) of 3-4 students. The classmates in your group will be your reading response partners, and more importantly, will form your team for a critical presentation for the semester. The details on “teams” (and the choices you have for names!) will be posted on BB.

Responses: on BB under “Questions and Responses,” I will post a couple of questions before each class. Member(s) from each of the groups will be responsible for a “reader response” to the questions posted. The response must be a minimum of 150

words. Your responses will be graded as Satisfactory (8.5), Unsatisfactory (6.5), or Excellent (10). In addition, these responses will serve as a springboard for the class discussion the following day -- thus it will be important to get the response posted by the evening before class.

Group presentation: in addition to the weekly "responses," your groups will also be responsible for one "comics presentation" during the semester. I will start to schedule these 2 weeks into the course. Any comic author and character is eligible, EXCEPT for the characters widely covered in this course. The exact parameters of the group project will be posted on BB in a separate document.

Caveat Lector

It is very important that students remember that the purpose of this course is to study literature and culture. Greece and Rome are the forefathers of Western culture and many aspects of Greek and Roman society may seem familiar to us today; however, many aspects of their culture are also alien and might even be considered offensive in today's society. In addition, while many of the American Superhero Comics we shall study will be at most "PG" level material, some comics may feature more graphic violence and nudity than you are accustomed to. If you find some of the course content offensive, please feel free to discuss it with me, my colleagues in Classics, or the director of SILC. All of us may be contacted in person or by email.

Scholastic dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a failing grade (E) for that assignment which may not be dropped. Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating. For the university policy, which this class follows, see:
<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/studentacint.html>.

Accommodations

If you require accommodations on assignments for a disability, university-sanctioned event, or religious holiday, you must let me know in advance. See the links below for the accommodations the university provides and that this class follows:

Religious accommodations:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-04.html>

University-sanctioned activities:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-02.html>

Disability resources:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/index.html#700>. NB: Students requesting accommodation for reasons of a disability must be registered with the Disability Resource Center and submit the appropriate documentation from the DRC.

Policy on behavior in the classroom

During lectures and discussion sessions, I assume that you will listen and respond

both to me and to one another. In order to accomplish this, you must refrain from using computers, cellphones, PDAs, music players, etc. etc., etc. Use of these items—however unobtrusive you may think you’re being—will result in the loss of participation points. Recording devices may be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (see me).

Disruptive behavior of any sort by anyone will not be tolerated. See the university policy: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html>.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1 Aug 20: Syllabus; “Intro to Comics and Classics”

Week 2 Aug 25: “Comics as Literature” Aug 27: McCloud *Understanding Comics* 1-5

Week 3 Sep 1: McCloud *Understanding Comics* 6-9 Sep 3: “Batman”; Miller *Batman Year One*

Week 4 Sep 8: Miller *Batman Year One*; “Classical Culture” Sep 10: “Classical Culture”; “Hercules Papyrus”; Apollodorus K1-K22 *AoCM* (33-45); “Superman”

Week 5 Sep 15: Morrison *All-Star Superman* Sep 17: *All-Star Superman*; Virgil 6a-6j *AoCM* (421-430)

Week 6 Sep 22: “Wonder Woman” QUIZ #1 Sep 24: *Wonder Woman Chronicles*

Week 7 Sep 29: *AoCM*, Homeric Hymns 5 (To Aphrodite); Sappho 1 Oct 1: *AoCM*, Apollodorus K11, N7; Diodorus 2.45-2.46; Palaephatus 4, 32; “Wonder Woman and the Amazons”; Intro to Hesiod

Week 8 Oct 6: *AoCM*, Hesiod *Theogony* ll456-1030; Intro to Pindar and Ovid Oct 8: *AoCM*, Hyg 82-88, Hell 157; Pin *Olympian 1*; Ovid *Heroides* 1, 3

Week 9 Oct 13: FALL BREAK Oct 15: Johns *Batman Earth One*

Week 10 Oct 20: “The Justice League”; *AoCM*, Apollodorus F, G1-G4 Oct 22: Meltzer *Justice League Tornado’s Path*

Week 11 Oct 27: Johns *Justice League Origin* Oct 29: Azzarello *Wonder Woman: Iron*; QUIZ #2

Week 12 Nov 3: “Retelling Antiquity in Comics – Hannibal Crosses the Alps”; McGinley “Hannibal goes to Rome” Nov 5: “The Peloponnesian War and Thermopylae”; PAPER #1

Week 13 Nov 10: Miller 300 Nov 12: Miller 300; *AoCM*, Statius

Week 14 Nov 17: Shanower *Age of Bronze* Nov 19: Shanower *Age of Bronze*

Week 15 Nov 24: Waid *Kingdom Come* Nov 26: THANKSGIVING

Week 16 Dec 1: : Waid *Kingdom Come* Dec 3: : Waid *Kingdom Come*; PAPER #2