

# COURSE DETAIL

## COMICS AND FANTASY

**Country**

Ireland

**Host Institution**

University College Dublin

**Program(s)**

University College Dublin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

English

**UCEAP Course Number**

143

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

COMICS AND FANTASY

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

COMICS AND FANTASY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

5.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.30

## **Course Description**

Friedrich Nietzsche infamously declared that God is dead. Later, Carl Jung diagnosed the distinctive illness of the twentieth century as that of a godless age in search of meaning. The twentieth century witnessed a rejection of old, official myths (God, the immortal soul, the nation state, etc.), which are supplanted by new ones that first emerge in so-called low, popular culture. Fantasy texts address various crises of meaning, by providing readers and audiences with new myths, new gods. This course explores the connections between fantasy, popular media and crises in the conception of the modern self, as mapped through events such as WWII, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, the triumph of late capitalism, and present-day fundamentalist terrorism. Sigmund Freud asserts that fantasy fulfills unconscious wishes, or 'lacks'. What do our enduring popular myths of roughly the last 100 years reveal about us, individually and collectively? Why are characters like Aslan, Superman, Batman and Bilbo Baggins such enduring figures of the modern imagination, easily translating from medium to medium (cheap paperbacks and comics, to film and TV)? Do they represent a hunger for old authority? Or, could they be archetypes of new humanist liberation? The course addresses these questions and others through analysis of a selection of key comics and fantasy texts.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

ENG10180

### **Host Institution Course Title**

COMICS AND FANTASY

### **Host Institution Course Details**

[https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W\\_HU\\_MENU.P\\_PUBLISH?p\\_tag=MODULE&MODULE=ENG10180](https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=MODULE&MODULE=ENG10180)

### **Host Institution Campus**

**Host Institution Faculty**

School of English, Drama & Film

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department****Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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