COURSE DETAIL

SUPERHEROES IN COMICS AND FILM
Country Hong Kong
Host Institution Chinese University of Hong Kong
Program(s) Chinese University of Hong Kong
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Film & Media Studies English
UCEAP Course Number 115
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SUPERHEROES IN COMICS AND FILM
UCEAP Transcript Title HEROES COMICS FILM
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

“Behold, I teach you the superman: He is this lightning, he is this madness!” thus spoke Friedrich Nietzsche. This course defines superheroes as the contemporary incarnation of Nietzsche’s Übermensch that calls for self-becoming and self overcoming. It traces the development of this enduring pop culture artifact, from immortal bodies of classical heroes to fantasies of the perfectible human through technoscience. With reference to cross-cultural expressions of the genre, the course dissects the concept of superheroes: What are they? Where do they come from? How can they help us change the way we think about ourselves, our environment, and the multiverse of possibilities that surrounds us? It discusses how the origins and evolution of these characters are shaped by sociohistorical factors, such as gender and sexuality, race, and society. Topics covered include good and evil, power and identity, and justice and responsibility. Students design their own superheroes and develop new ways of reading superheroes as modern myths about fears, longings, and aspirations.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UGED2187

Host Institution Course Title
SUPERHEROES IN COMICS AND FILM

Host Institution Course Details
https://rgsntl.rgs.cuhk.edu.hk/aqs_prd_applx/Public/tt_dsp_crse_catalog.aspx

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
English

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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