

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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