

# *Moravian College*

## **WRIT 100 J – Man Writing Superman: The Heroic Figure and the Comic Universe**

**Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Assistant Professor in Sociology  
PPHAC 317**

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**Office Hours: T & Th 3:30p – 4:30p/W 2p – 4p or By Appointment**

### **Required Text:**

- Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook for Writers*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2002.
- Wright, Bradford W. *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Supplemental readings as necessary (also see BlackBoard [Bb] regularly)

**\*\*Check Black Board (Bb) Site Daily\*\***

### **Materials:**

- Separate 8 ½" X 11 *Spiral* Notebook (or bound book)
- Separate Binder

### **Course Description:**

This writing course will employ as its primary theme the images and meaning that swirl about comic book super heroes and their role in shaping and managing social, political, and cultural life. Among the many topics we will explore are issues pertaining to the nature of heroism, ideological management, cultural meaning, body types, creativity, and the broader significance of constructing vibrant and charismatic beings whose primary function is designed around the construction of models to be targeted to specific audiences and/or markets.

### **Course Objectives and Purpose:**

- To trace the rise of the pre-WWII comic book tradition that parallels the rise of a post-WWII youth culture
- To define the notion of hero - then and now

- To explore the vast realm of genre *characters* relative to their place among the pantheon of heroes and definitions of heroism that cut across temporal and spatial barriers
- To deconstruct the means with which an artistic medium geared toward a younger demographic nevertheless creates a cultural fount that cuts across generations and *age-appropriateness*
- To combine all of the above in order to create better strategies for writing based on a variety of styles, audiences, techniques as befitting a college-level writer

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be required to keep a writer’s almanac (minimum of five entries per week), write a research paper (topic to be negotiated) with an annotated bibliography, write several essays of varying length, submit a final portfolio, and perform other tasks as befitting an introductory college writing course. Fair warning will precede any and all due dates.

Using a traditional grading scale, the breakdown of grades is as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Writer’s Almanac (to be checked periodically) | 20% |
| • Portfolio                                     | 20% |
| • Research Paper (with Annotated Bibliography)  | 20% |
| • Essays Combined                               | 20% |
| • Participation and Other Misc. Tasks           | 20% |

As I typically employ letter grades on written assignments, I offer the below list of how each letter translates numerically:

- A+=100/A= 96/A-=92
- B+=89/B=86/B-=82
- C+=79/C=76/C-=72
- D+=69/D=66/D-=62
- F=59-50 [actual score depends on the severity of the error(s)/student will be notified]
- Failure to turn in work translates into a *ZERO*

**Classroom Decorum and Expectations:**

**Attendance** – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but may also be met with a lowered mark for participation.

- Please Note – there are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at your earliest convenience.

**Tardiness** – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one’s fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter.

**Deadlines** – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:

- On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury
- Do not expect me to have to chase you down in order to turn in assignments!

**Participation** – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process. Your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to do so is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively.

**Disruptions** – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual’s ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.

**Academic Honesty** – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found on pages fifty-two through fifty-seven in your student handbook.

**Please note:** It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same as well.

**Submission Expectations:**

Out of class work must include:

- a title page with a suitable title, your name, the course, section, and my name all spelled correctly
- 12 font (in black) with default margins and spacing set at 1½ to 2
- page numbers at the bottom center starting with page 2
- a *References* section (if necessary) at the end of the work done in the most recent MLA form (for every unedited internet cite you must have at least two published

sources)<sup>1</sup>

- with few exceptions, single & two-digit numbers (zero *through* ninety-nine) are to be spelled out; three digits are to be written numerically
- be wary of over use of abbreviations and/or contractions
- a staple in the upper left hand corner (no frilly covers)
- in-class work must be done in blue or black ink

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<sup>1</sup> Work not properly cited will not be graded. And *Wikipedia* will under no circumstances be considered a legitimate source!

*In brightest day, in blackest night,  
all evil shall escape my sight!  
Let those who worship evil's might,  
fear not my power... Green Lantern's light!*

—Hal Jordan, the Most Recognizable  
of the many Green Lanterns

## **Schedule of Topics (STC):**

### ***Unit I - With great power comes great responsibility.***

***Issue #001*** – Getting Started (course expectations and guidelines documentary film); Establishing a Topic; The Paragraph; Narrative Writing

### ***Unit II - I don't know about you Miss Kitty, but I feel so much yummier.***

***Issue #002*** – The Thesis Statement; Explanatory Writing

### ***Unit III - Remember when this place was just flame-throwers and rotating knives? I miss that.***

***Issue #003*** – Critical Reading & The Persuasive Essay

### ***Unit IV - No matter how many times you save the world, it always manages to get back in jeopardy again.***

***Issue #004*** – The Research Process; Reeves Library

### ***Unit V - Fear is for lesser men, never for Doom.***

***Issue #005*** The Poetry within Words; Writing for Readers & Listeners; The Letter

### ***Unit VI - Your pardon, sir. We are here to see a man about a rescue.***

***Issue #006*** – Tweaking Voice & Style; Writing for Audio & Rhythm

### ***Unit VII - Soon I Will Be Invincible!***

***Issue #007*** – Putting It All Together

#### ***Miscellaneous Tasks:***

*-multiple drafts, peer editing, oral presentation, group presentation, varying audiences*