

## **First Year Seminar Section 12**

Comics and Social Diversity: Black Panther

Fall 2018

Meredith Hall 0102

TTH 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Dr. Jeff Karnicky

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316 Howard Hall

Office Hours: T 11:00-12:15; W 11:30-1:00; TH 8:15-9:15; 11:00-12:15

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF COMICS AS IT RELATES TO RACE, ETHNICITY, CLASS, GENDER, NATION, AND OTHER FORMS OF IDENTITY
- BECOME CLOSE READERS OF COMICS
- USE RESEARCH TO SUPPORT AND INFORM YOUR WRITING
- ENGAGE IN CLASS DISCUSSION IN A FOCUSED, SERIOUS MANNER
- EXAMINE THE RACIAL AND GENDERED STEREOTYPES THAT MID-20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY COMICS EMPLOYED, AND THINK ABOUT HOW THESE COMPARE TO CONTEMPORARY COMICS
- THINK ABOUT THE WAYS COMICS HAVE ENGAGED SOCIAL ISSUES AND INSTIGATED FOR CHANGES IN SOCIAL NORMS
- EXAMINE HOW THE COMICS INDUSTRY HAS BECOME MORE DIVERSE IN ITS CREATORS AND ITS AUDIENCE, AND THINK ABOUT HOW THIS AFFECTS THE PRODUCTION OF COMICS

### **Required Texts**

Christopher Priest, *Black Panther: The Complete Collection, Volume 1* (2015, collects *Black Panther* 1-17, 1998) ISBN: 0785192670

Reginald Hudlin, *Black Panther: The Complete Collection, Volume 1* (2017, collects *Black Panther* 1-18, 2005, *X-Men 175-176*, 1991) ISBN: 1302907719

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Black Panther: A Nation Under our Feet* (2016, collects *Black Panther* 1-4, *Fantastic Four* (1966) 52) ISBN: 1302900536

### **Course Policies**

Attendance is required. Missing a significant number of classes will detrimentally affect your final grade. Doing non-class related things in class—including, but not limited to, surfing the web, texting, tweeting, snapchatting, instagramming, reading other texts, doing other work, writing in your daily planner, sleeping, nodding off—will also have

grade-related consequences. Please remember that English classes are small, and it is obvious to the professor and your classmates when you are present in body but not in mind.

Participation is required. I will do my best to facilitate discussion, and I expect that all students enrolled in the class will do their best to actively participate in class discussion. If you are not willing to participate in class discussion, this class may not be for you. In order to be prepared for class discussion, you must do the assigned readings.

The College of Arts and Sciences' "Academic Dishonest Policy" can be found here: <http://www.drake.edu/artsci/studentresources/policiesandregulations/>

Here is their definition of "academic dishonesty."

"Academic dishonesty is an all encompassing term involving any activity that seeks to gain credit for work one has not done or to deliberately damage or destroy the work of others. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Plagiarism - The misrepresentation, either by intent or negligence, of another's ideas, phrases, discourse, or works as one's own.

Cheating - the act, or attempted act, of giving or obtaining aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations.

Fabrication - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic sense in any academic exercise.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty - intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty."

Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the College's procedures and penalties, which can be found on the website linked above.

Michelle Laughlin ([michelle.laughlin@drake.edu](mailto:michelle.laughlin@drake.edu), 271-1835) is Drake's Student Disability Services Coordinator. If you have a disability and will require academic accommodations in this course, please let me know. Accommodations are coordinated through Student Disability Services.

## **Assignments and Grades**

### *Assignments*

#### Research Assignment Presentation

Research a Marvel comic character who has appeared in a comic with Black Panther. (Note: Nearly every Marvel character, from the Avengers to the X-Men, has appeared alongside Black Panther.) Your research should focus on this character's role in the Black

Panther universe. You will then do a 10-minute in class presentation (using PowerPoint or some other visual aid) on your findings.

You should talk about some of the following, depending on what is most relevant.

- What is this character's history? When did the character first appear?
- Who has written and drawn this character?
- How has this character changed over the years?
- What are some different versions of this character?
- What social issues has this character addressed?

After discussing the above questions, you should develop an argument that answers the following.

- What does this character say to you about social and cultural values? Why is this character interesting to you? Why should we care about this character?

#### Research Assignment Essay

For the end of the semester, you will turn your research presentation into an essay of at least 1200 words. You should focus your essay with a thesis statement. That is, you should make a claim about how you see your character relating to a specific social and/or cultural value. Your essay should be organized coherently and clearly written. You should use and cite sources correctly.

#### Discussion leader for Comics

Twice during the semester, you will lead 10-minutes of class discussion on a specific aspect of a comic we are reading. You will sign up for these assignments during the first week of classes.

#### Close Reading Essays

You will write a 500-word close reading for each comic collection we read. I will give you a prompt for each book.

#### Participation on discussion boards and in class

For each class when we read an essay, you should post a response and a reading question to the discussion board. You should be prepared to discuss the essay in class.

#### *Grading*

Research Assignment Presentation: 20%

Research Assignment Essay: 20 %

Discussion leaders for comics 1: 5%

- Discussion leaders for comics 2: 5%
- Close reading Essay 1: 10%
- Close reading Essay 2: 10%
- Close reading Essay 3: 10%
- Close reading Essay 4: 10%
- Participation on discussion board and in class: 10%

### *Assignment Submission*

Please submit your assignments by email to me: [jeff.karnicky@drake.edu](mailto:jeff.karnicky@drake.edu). Submit your assignments as an attachment, preferably as a Microsoft Word document. (If you don't use Word, be sure to submit your paper as a readable document, such as an .rtf, .pdf, or .html document.) **Please use your last name as the first word of your document title;** if your name is Joe Jones, your attachment should be named "Jones.docx" (or "Jonespaper1.docx" or something similar, as long as "Jones" is the first word. This makes filing and grading much easier for me.) Papers should be emailed before the class period in which they are due. I will email students whose papers I have not received.

### **Course Schedule**

Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class

Aug 28	Course introduction; look at <a href="https://www.marvel.com/characters/black-panther-t-challa/in-comics">https://www.marvel.com/characters/black-panther-t-challa/in-comics</a>
Aug 30	Read "What's in a Page? Close Reading Comics," from Karin Kukkonen <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>
Sep 4	Read <i>Fantastic Four</i> #52 (in <i>Black Panther: A Nation under our Feet</i> )
Sep 6	Meet in Cowles Library 201
Sep 11	Lund, "Introducing the Sensational Black Panther," Hudson, "It's Time to Get Real"
Sep 13	Adilifu, chapter 2 from <i>Super Black</i> ; <b>close reading #1 due</b>
Sep 18	Priest "The Story So Far," 1-4
Sep 20	Priest 5-8
Sep 25	Priest 9-13
Sep 27	Priest 14-17
Oct 2	Presentations 1-6; <b>close reading #2 due</b>
Oct 4	McDaniel, "Has Marriage Marginalized Storm?"
Oct 9	Hudlin 1-4
Oct 11	Hudlin 5-8
Oct 16	<b>Fall Break</b>
Oct 18	Presentations 7-12
Oct 23	Hudlin 9-13
Oct 25	Hudlin 14-17

Oct 30	Feldman, review of Hudlin; Adilifu, chapter 4 from <i>Super Black</i> ; <b>close reading #3 due</b>
Nov 1	Coates, "Why I'm Writing 'Captain America;'" Coates 1
Nov 6	Coates 2-3
Nov 8	Coates 4
Nov 13	Presentations 13-17; <b>close reading #4 due</b>
Nov 15	No Class meeting; work on final essay
Nov 20	Watch <i>Black Panther</i>
Nov 22	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
Nov 27	Discuss <i>Black Panther</i>
Nov 29	Presentations 18-22
Dec 4	Presentations extra day; class wrap up
Dec 6	<b>Final Essay due</b>