

# A HISTORY OF COMICS: THE SUPERHEROINE



This course acts as an introduction to media studies, specifically to comics and graphic novels. The industry of comics has been dominated by superhero comics since their inception in the early 1940s, and these will be our primary concern in this course. This quarter, we will focus on the FEMALE superhero, moving from the original archetype of the superheroine, Wonder Woman (in the 1940s), to some of her modern counterparts. As such, we will read many superhero and action comics as well as theoretical works that help us to question comics as a form of literature, such as Umberto Eco's "The Myth of Superman," Geoff Klock's *How to Read Superhero Comics and Why*, and Jill Lepore's *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*. We will also screen film adaptations of some of the works in order to interrogate the intersections of the differing media of film, television, and comics. Some questions we will investigate are: How is a comic a text? Who is its author? What decisions (both technical and narrative) must be made in the composition of a page, and who makes them? What events in comics history have changed the industry and how have they had an impact on narrative? Additionally, given the focus on the female superhero, we will consider how female superheroes have been created and received differently from male ones.

SUMMER 2016 | A TERM | DR. NANCY WHITE | M: 12:40-4PM, W/F: 12:40-250PM | OPEN TO ALL MAJORS