

Online Comics Reading Club: Superman Comics & Feminism



Orientation – Course 2017-2018

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General Description

This online comics reading club entitled “Superman Comics & Feminism” is intended for its participants to share their experiences and conceptions in reading American Superman comics from a feminist perspective. The idea of a feminist perspective to analyze such masculine products as superhero comics is based not on focusing on the superhero but on his love interest, the female character Lois Lane. But even beyond this basic proposal, the reading club is open to a free exchange of ideas.

By organizing this online comics reading club, it is expected that, through these readings, you will get more acquainted with American culture from the point of view of its product, the superhero comics. It is also expected that you will improve your productive skill of writing English and your receptive skills of listening & reading comprehension, and at the same time, your digital information and communication (ICT) skills.

As this is a non-compulsory activity, your participation depends on your available time. Basically, you will be asked to read a comic book every two weeks, although in the first module, there is some more introductory material on the topics of comics and feminism. After reading each comic book, we will exchange opinions on the forum with a first prompt from the coordinator.

The function of the coordinator is to guide and moderate debate and dialogue, in order to help in the process of becoming acquainted with the suggested comics. The coordinator will not correct language, unless communication breaks down or she is asked to do so. Neither will she impose her views on the participants, since the basic conception behind the design of this reading club is collaborative learning, i.e. participants will exchange their opinions respectfully and learn from each other in a safe, friendly and pleasant environment stimulating and broadening the experience of superhero comics reading.

NOTE ABOUT CONTENT

It is possible that our reading or visual material might present or raise topics that are controversial. These topics will be handled with respect by students and the coordinator, even when different or even opposite viewpoints might be expressed.

Objectives

BASIC OBJECTIVE

- 1) To share experiences in reading American Superman comics from a feminist perspective.

**SUPPLEMENTARY OBJECTIVES**

- 2) To practise writing English in order to improve this productive skill.
- 3) To improve participants' skills in reading comprehension in this visual-verbal medium.
- 4) To raise participants awareness of American culture through its presentation in the comics.
- 5) To get participants acquainted with EOI's library working and organization.

Organization

As mentioned earlier, this is a non-compulsory activity; thus, your participation depends on your time availability. However, your **minimum requirements to participate** will be reading a comic book, and then, posting your commentaries and opinions on the forum open for each topic, in order to exchange ideas with the group. In some modules there are extra tasks for you to complete if time allows you to.

This reading club has been divided into **five two-week modules** related to the comic books we are going to deal with. In each module the comic books are in a pdf file to be downloaded by participants, but hard copies were purchased to integrate the comics collection of the EOI library, although it is going to take time to have them available at the library. Alternatively, in the modules a link has also been included for participants to purchase the hard copy of the comic book.

Each module has a **Commentary and Query Forum** which will be the core of the reading club. These forums will be the places to collaborate, communicate and embark in shared learning and comments. Apart from queries about any issues that may arise while reading the comics, forums will ask for your ideas about and reactions to each comic book, and your replies to both these questions and your fellow students' posts are very important.

As the coordinator, I will also participate, first, by posting a prompt question to start up the discussion, and then, by taking on the role as a moderator. Here a word of caution should be added. As I stated above in the note about content, you may encounter controversial material; nevertheless, these polemic topics should be handled carefully by everybody, avoiding a disrespectful or unpleasant tone in communication.

Schedule

| Date | Module and related activities |
|------------------------|---|
| October 16-29 | <p>Introduction: Update your profile with a photo and introduce yourself to the reading club group on the Introduction Forum.</p> <p>Introductory topics: Comics and feminism. Quizzes to check what you have learned about these two topics.</p> <p>First comics reading – First Superman's (and Lois Lane's) origin (1938): Read "Superman" in <i>Action Comics</i> #1, and then, give your opinion on the Commentary and Query Forum.</p> |
| October 30-November 12 | <p>Second comics reading – Second Superman's (and Lois Lane's) origin (1986): Read <i>The Man of Steel</i> #1, and then, give your opinion on the Commentary and Query Forum.</p> |



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| November 13-26 | Third comics reading – Introducing Lois Lane (1986): Read <i>The Man of Steel</i> #2, and then, give your opinion on the Commentary and Query Forum . |
| November 27-December 10 | Fourth comics reading – Introducing Mr. Mxyzptlk (1987): Read <i>Superman</i> #11 “The Name Game,” and then, give your opinion on the Commentary and Query Forum . |
| December 11-21 | Fifth comics reading – Encounter of two female characters related to Superman (1988): Read <i>Action Comics: Superman</i> #597 “Lois Lane and Lana Lang in ‘Visitor,’” and then, give your opinion on the Commentary and Query Forum . End of the Online Comics Reading Club “Superman Comics & Feminism”: Comics reading club evaluation and farewell messages. |

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