

Name: Scott O'Neil

Course Description: WRT 105-- Comic Books and the Rhetoric of Nationalism

David Jay Gabriel, executive director of the New York City Comic Book Museum, has identified comic books as one of five “pure” American art forms alongside jazz, musical comedy, the mystery novel, and the banjo. Gabriel is just the latest to make such a claim. What about comic books makes them American? As the nation has changed, have comics changed in response? Do film and video game adaptations of comic titles carry the same sense of American heritage as their source material? In this course, we will explore these questions by analyzing the various periods of comic history, including super hero comics and the emergent digital age. These issues will be the focus of our work with writing, and we will utilize class discussion, pre-writing, peer review, self-assessment and the revision process to produce several well-organized essays. Our work will culminate in an 8-10 page research paper, which will demonstrate your ability to engage in a critical conversation connected to our course topic.