

Name: Scott O'Neil

Course Description: WRT 105-- Excavating the Family Tree

In one of the most iconic moments of American cinema, Darth Vader changes the relationship between himself and Luke Skywalker with four simple words—“I am your father.” With one line, Vader is transformed from a villain into a figure capable of redemption based on a revelation not of a shared history, but of a title. In this class, we will explore the power held by such family titles. We will analyze the nature of these titles as they appear in a wide variety of literary, visual, and pop cultural categories and texts such as *Superman*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Modern Family*, among many other texts ranging from Renaissance poetry to contemporary music. How do these texts present familial titles? How have such titles been portrayed historically and across cultures? We will explore these questions in all aspects of our writing, including class discussion, pre-writing, peer review, self-assessment and the revision process in order to create well-organized essays, culminating with an 8-10 page research paper.