

Name: Scott O'Neil

Course Description: WRT 105-- Villains in Pop Culture

The idea of the Hero has been oft discussed. Academics have analyzed the hero's journey and the ways in which heroes represent culture--but what about the villains? What is it that makes a character a good *villain*? Is a heroic counterpart necessary for a villain to exist? Has the concept of villainy changed over the centuries? This course will focus on these questions. We will begin with medieval notions of villainy, and from that foundation, we will expand our focus to include representations of villainy in video games, film, comic books, and more. There will be significant opportunity for student input on the direction of our inquiry. 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 explore those ideas in several argumentative 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.