

## Comic Book Culture

### Syllabus

Week 1 – Origins of the format – Its roots in the comic strip – The creation of the superhero archetype.

Week 2 - The rapid growth of the comic book – The proliferation of comic book publishers – Contraction in the industry.

Week 3 - Post War Bust and the near extinction of the superhero - The birth and growth of different comic book genres.

Week 4 – E.C. Comics and the horror comic scandal – Frederick Wortham, *The Seduction of the Innocent* – Format at the Edge of Extinction

Week 5 - The Comics Code and the neutered superhero – The Silver Age of Comics Begins

Week 6 – The rise of Marvel Comics – The birth of the existential superhero – Breaking the Comics Code

Week 7 – Social Issues come to the fore – Contraction in the industry – 1985 and the Comic Book Renaissance

Week 8 – Gritty Realism and Controversy – Reimagining characters for modern times – The Leap to the Silver Screen