

Research Paper Assignment

Your paper should be a critical analysis of a major work in the comic book medium. The primary work should *not* be one of the main works we discussed in class (prior approval for exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis). Your paper should approach the primary work from (at least) one of the critical methods discussed in class or in the textbooks from the class, and it should draw on related secondary source material. Your paper should make a specific claim about the text. Final papers will be conference-length, not exceeding 3000 words.

Final Paper Format: Length - conference paper length, max 3000 words, including footnotes but excluding works cited (approx. 10 pages). First page should include title, your name, UTD-ID, course title, word count, and 100-200 word abstract (not included in word count). Must consistently follow the guidelines of your favorite manual of grammar and style (preferably Turabian but MLA, APA, Chicago are accepted), and include proper and complete citations to the works you draw on (avoid any whiff of plagiarism). 12pt, Times New Roman (or similar font—plain, preferably serif), double-spaced, 1-inch margins, unless otherwise approved. Improperly formatted papers *will not be accepted*. (No, seriously.)

Paper Milestones

Monday, March 5th – **Topic Summary** – 200-300 word description of the primary text you've chosen to analyze, *why* this is a significant object of analysis, the question you hope to answer with your paper, and description of the critical framework or methods you will apply to the text in order to answer the question. *Turn in in-class.*

Monday, March 19th – **Annotated Bibliography** – Including the primary text and at least 4 secondary source materials you intend to use in writing your paper. These should be major journal articles, book chapters, or books of comics scholarship, not items from textbooks or encyclopedias or works of popular criticism (though if you intend to rely on those, they should also be cited). *Turn in in-class.*

Sunday, April 1st – **Paper Abstract** – 200-300 words, includes a statement of a thesis and a summary of the argument of your paper. *Turn in online.*

Sunday, April 22nd – **Extended Abstract** - 800-1000 words, extended summary of the argument of your paper, including brief references to secondary sources. *Turn in online.*

Wednesday, May 9th - **Final Paper Due** - *Turn in online.*