

FYSE 1006

Fall 2022

**LIBRARY 230
10:10-11AM
MWF**





PROFESSOR
GREG PASK

OFFICE
MBH 315

OFFICE HOURS
MR 1-3PM
OR BY APPT.

EMAIL
GPASK@MIDDLEBURY.EDU

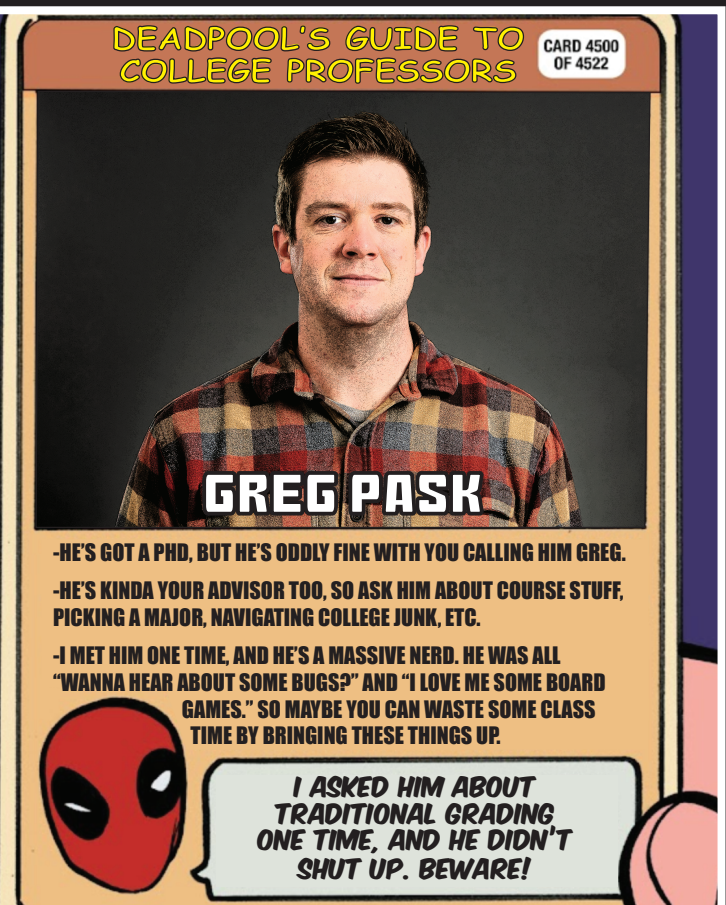
TWITTER
@G_PASK

Comic books and graphic novels are a powerful storytelling medium that often connects to both contemporary cultural issues and human emotions. Marvel Comics has long used their pages to tackle issues of race, poverty, gender, identity, science, and justice, either indirectly or head-on. In this course we will analyze both the source material and scholarship related to Marvel comics, as well as learn to communicate our own analysis and stories in both written and oral forms.







***MODIFIED PANEL FROM UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL (2015) #3. WE'LL ACTUALLY BE READING THESE ISSUES FOR OUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT!**

-GREG



LEARNING GOALS

During this course, students will:

-  learn what is expected intellectually and ethically for college-level work in the liberal arts
-  engage seriously with the topic of how comics reflect issues within our society and personal life
-  develop skills in widely accessible yet scholarly presentation (written and oral), involving observation, analysis, argumentation, research, and the use of sources
-  become (with the help of advising) active in exploring academic and professional interests, and to find rewarding ways to participate in intellectual life in the liberal arts

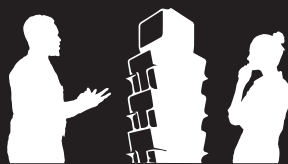
HOW YOU WILL PROGRESS TOWARD THESE GOALS



Pull List & Reading
Club Reflections



Analytical Writing
Pieces



Spinner Rack
Recommendations



Make Your Own
Marvel Project

COURSE MATERIALS



The FYS program has generously provided each student with a year-long subscription to Marvel Unlimited, which grants you access to over 30,000 Marvel comics

All other course materials and communication can be found on our Slack workspace at <http://MiddMarvel22.slack.com>



HOW I WILL ASSESS YOUR PROGRESS

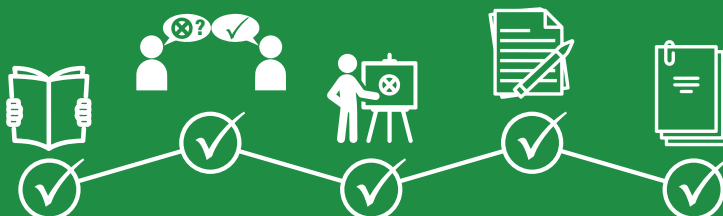
This course will use a labor-based grading approach that centers on feedback, improvement, integrative thinking, idea development, and effective communication. I strongly believe that traditional assessment practices focus too much on “the grade” and can increase stress and/or decrease risk-taking. Instead, your grade will be based on all the work (learning) you’ll be doing this semester.

If you put in significant effort into an assignment and submit it on time, you get full credit for your work.



Feedback is given frequently with a focus on self-improvement.

Larger assignments will involve multiple stages of work spread throughout the semester, and all this effort counts!



In class we will discuss the expected level of effort required for your work. If the effort on assigned work is insufficient, you will zero credit and we will then work to figure out the best practices to optimize your labor-based learning.

MAXIMUM EFFORT!



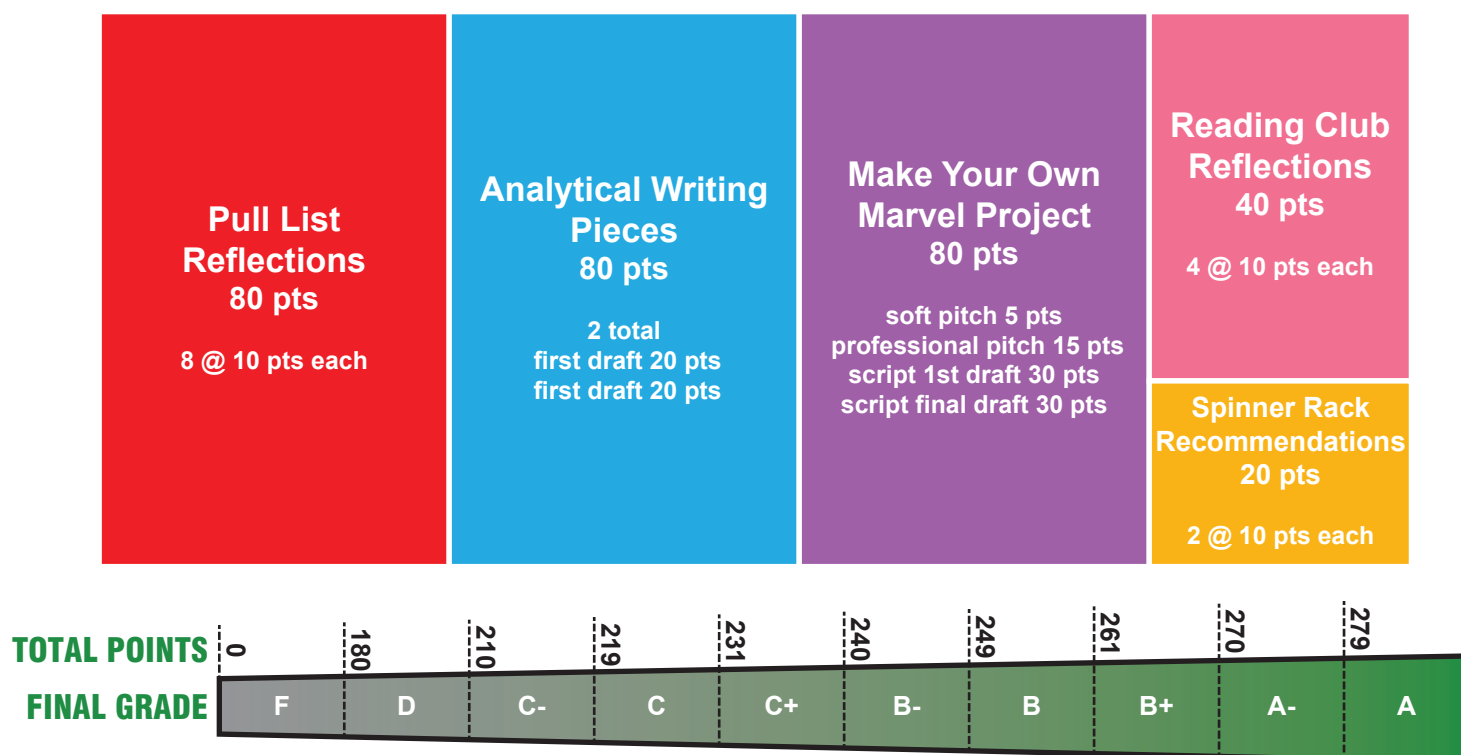
EXPECTATIONS



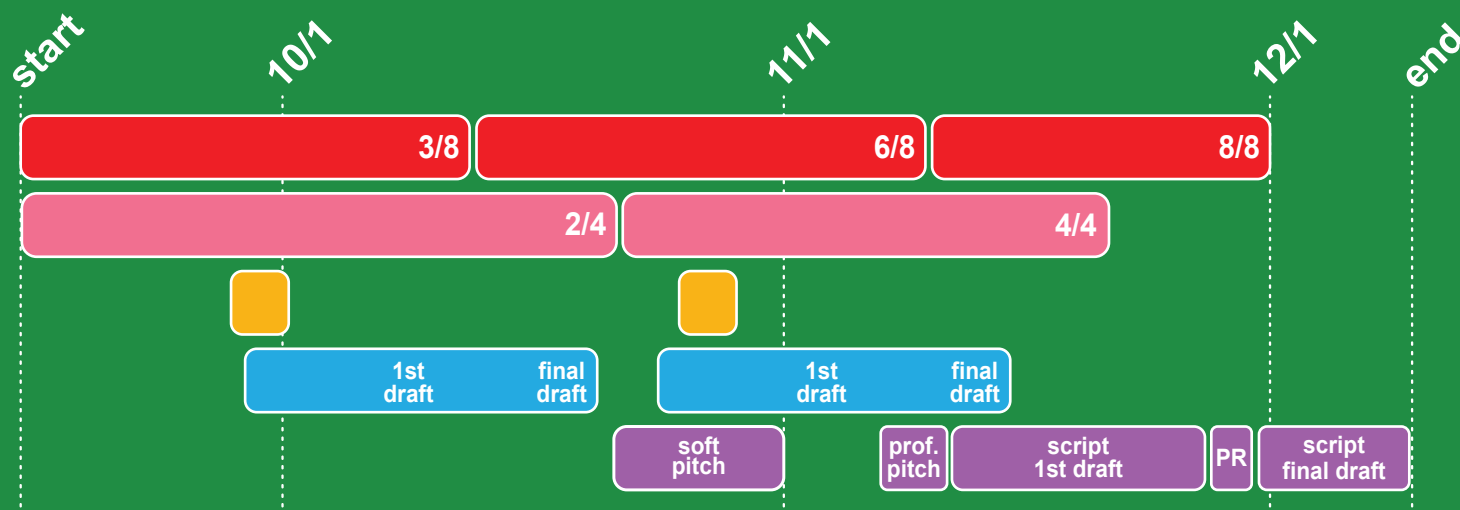
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I believe that Academic Honesty and Integrity is of the utmost importance, so the language from the Honor Code in the Middlebury Handbook (section B.1.a.) resonates with my values. Please include the Honor Code Pledge (“I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.”) on all assignments for this course. If you are unsure of whether a specific action in this course would violate the Academic Honesty Policy in this course, I urge you to check with me beforehand. Any suspected instances of the Academic Honesty Policy will be brought to the attention of the judicial affairs officer.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT



ASSIGNMENT TIMELINE



Please see the most recent Course Schedule on our Slack Workspace for exact due dates. All work is expected to be complete and submitted before or on the due date.

DISABILITY ACCESS/ACCOMMODATION

Students who have Letters of Accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact me as early in the semester as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For those without Letters of Accommodation, assistance is available to eligible students through the Disability Resource Center (formerly called Student Accessibility Services). Please contact the ADA Coordinators Jodi Litchfield (litchfie@middlebury.edu, 802-443-5936) or Peter Ploegman (pploegman@middlebury.edu, 802-443-2382) for more information. All discussions will remain confidential.

DURING THIS COURSE YOU MAY NEED TO CALL UPON THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF STAN LEE PRINTED IN DEC. 1968:

STAN'S SOAPBOX

The next time anyone puts you down for reading a comic mag, try hitting him with this little soliloquy which I've used on various radio and TV guest appearances in the past few months:

Comic books are a medium of communication — just as television and motion pictures are. All three employ words and pictures, and all must be judged on their individual merits. A story is a story, whether presented between two covers, or on a screen. If the words have dramatic impact, if the pictures are visually appealing, if the theme is emotionally relevant, then certainly it is worthy of a reader's attention. However, if the quality is lacking, then it rates little consideration. Isn't this equally true of a TV program, a Broadway show, a motion picture, or any other form of entertainment? All we at Marvel ask is that our product be judged on the basis of quality — a quality which we sincerely believe is equal to that found in any other comparable media.

Marvel Comics today are produced by the finest creative talent available. Read them first . . . and then decide.
Excelsior!

Smiley

IF THAT FAILS, JUST TELL THEM THERE'S A FIRST YEAR SEMINAR THAT WATCHES THE ENTIRE SERIES OF THE WIRE.

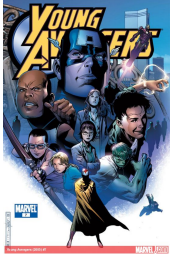






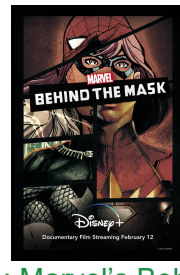
ACTUALLY... MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE ENROLLED IN THAT ONE.



<p>9/6 1st class from 8:30-10AM in AXT 301</p> <p>Building Community, Course Introduction, and Registration Prep</p>	<p>9/6-9/7 Advising meetings in MBH 315</p> <p>Please sign up for a 30- minute time slot using the following link</p> <p><i>Prep:</i> Come ready with an idea of some available courses that interest you</p>	<p>9/8 Registration</p> <p>Please reach out to me via Slack if you have any issues or are seeking advice</p>
<p>9/12 Beginning College</p>  <p>Read: <i>The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl</i> 2015A #1-4</p>	<p>9/14 Academic Integrity & Time Management</p>  <p>Prep: Read the Honor Code Handbook, then go enroll in the Academic Integrity Tutorial and complete the quiz before class.</p>	<p>9/16 Origins Part I</p>  <p>Read: <i>Captain America Comics</i> (1941) #1 and <i>Amazing Fantasy</i> (1962) #15</p>
<p>9/19 Origins Part II</p>  <p>Read: <i>Uncanny X-Men</i> (1963) #1 and <i>Giant Size X- Men</i> (1975) #1</p>	<p>9/21 Reading and Analyzing Comics Scholarship with Genie Giamo</p> <p>Read: Lund M, "The Mutant Problem: X-Men, Confirmation Bias, and the Methodology of Comics and Identity" 2015 in <i>European Journal of American Studies</i></p>	<p>9/23 Research and Citations Skills with Librarian Amy Frazier</p> 
<p>9/26 Can the Government take Away Your Rights?</p>  <p>1 Read: <i>Civil War</i> (2006) #1-7</p>	<p>9/28 "Whose Side Are You On?"</p>  <p>Read: "The Uncivil Debate Within Marvel's <i>Civil War</i>" in <i>The Ages of Avengers: Essays on the Earth's Mightiest Heroes in Changing Times</i></p>	<p>9/30 Spinner Rack Recommendations #1</p>  <p>Prepare: 3-minute oral recommendation from your Pull List Reading</p>

<p>10/3 Shaping Your Identity</p>  <p>Read: <i>Ms. Marvel</i> (2014) #1-5</p>	<p>10/5 Ms. Marvel: Performance With Power!</p> 	<p>10/7 Ms. Marvel: Connecting with a New Generation</p>  <p>Watch: This TedTalk by G. Willow Wilson</p>
<p>10/10 Peer Review Day</p>  <p>Due: Analytical Writing Piece #1 1st draft</p>	<p>10/12 Mutants and Otherness</p>  <p>Read: <i>X-Men: God Loves, Man Kills – Special Edition</i> (1982) #0</p> <p>Due: Pull List Reflections 3/8 complete</p>	<p>10/14 Do Mutants Need A Cure?</p>  <p>Read: <i>Astonishing X-Men</i> (2004) #1-6</p>
<p>10/17 Who Needs the Boys?</p>  <p>Read: <i>Captain Marvel</i> (2014) #1-6</p>	<p>10/19 Marvel & Motherhood</p>  <p>Read: <i>Spider-Woman</i> (2015) #1-5</p>	<p>10/21 Becoming A Super Mom</p>  <p>Listen: The Longest Shortest Time podcast episode #76 “Kicking Ass While Pregnant”</p> <p>Due: Analytical Writing Piece #1 final draft</p>

<p>10/24 Black Panther: Marvel's First Black Superhero</p>  <p>Read: <i>Fantastic Four</i> (1961) #52-53 and <i>Jungle Action</i> (1972) #6-8 Due: Reading Club Reflections 2/4 complete</p>	<p>10/26 Spinner Rack Recommendations #2</p>  <p>Prepare: 3-minute oral recommendation from your Pull List Reading</p>	<p>10/28 Cosplay for Science – Storytelling within a World with Gabriel-Philip Santos</p> 
<p>10/31 Why Can't Spider-Man Be Black and Latino?</p>  <p>Read: <i>Ultimate Comics Spider-Man</i> (2011) #1-7 and this article from 2010 Due: Make Your Own Marvel Project – Soft Pitch Deadline</p>	<p>11/2 How Can You Reach Young Readers?</p>  <p>Read: <i>Power Pack</i> (2005) #1-4</p>	<p>11/4 Power and Responsibility with Jason Duquette-Hoffman of the Center for Community Engagement</p>  <p>Middlebury College Center for Community Engagement</p> <p>Due: Analytical Writing Piece #2 1st draft</p>
<p>11/7 Bringing a Comic Book Script to Life</p>  <p>Read: The first scene of <i>Young Avengers</i> #1 script</p>	<p>11/9 Is There an Age Limit to Being a Hero?</p>  <p>Read: <i>Young Avengers</i> (2005) #1-6 Due: Pull List Reflections 6/8 complete</p>	<p>11/11 Professional Pitch Presentations</p>  <p>Due: Make Your Own Marvel Project – Professional Pitch</p>

<p>11/14 Navigating Adolescence</p>  <p>Read: <i>Young Avengers</i> (2005) #7-12</p>	<p>11/16 No class – script writing day</p> <p>Due: Analytical Writing Piece #2 final draft</p>	<p>11/18 Spinner Rack Rec. #1 Class Pick</p>  <p>Due: Reading Club Reflections 4/4 complete</p>
<p>11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving Break – no class</p>		
<p>11/28 Unveiling Systematic Racism Pt. I</p>  <p>Read: <i>Truth: Red, White, and Black</i> (2003) #1-4</p>	<p>11/30 Unveiling Systematic Racism Pt. II</p>  <p>Read: <i>Truth: Red, White, and Black</i> (2003) #5-7 and Listen: This podcast episode</p> <p>Due: Pull List Reflections 8/8 complete</p>	<p>12/2 Spinner Rack Rec. #2 Class Pick</p> 
<p>12/5 Marvel Script Peer Review</p>  <p>Due: Make Your Own Marvel Project – Script 1st Draft</p>	<p>12/7 Taking to the Streets</p>  <p>Read: <i>Black Panther & The Crew</i> (2017) #1-6</p>	<p>12/9 Behind the Mask</p>  <p>Watch: Marvel's Behind the Mask documentary <i>*First Year Symposium*</i></p>
<p>12/12 Course Wrap-Up</p>		<p>12/16 Due: Make Your Own Marvel Project – Script Final Draft</p>