

The University of Suwon

Marvel Cinematic Universe

Spring 2017 Syllabus

Professor James Whalley



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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30-3:00

Course Description:

THIS COURSE IS PRESENTED ONLINE ONLY. In this course, we will use the films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe to explore topics such as:

- Shared universes and crossovers
- Prequels, sequels, reboots, and remakes
- Superpowers (preferences, responsibilities, etc.)
- Superheroes (mythology, family, responsibilities, etc.)
- Multiple universes and timelines
- Literary devices (foreshadowing, flashbacks, motifs, etc.)

Each week students will view a film from the Marvel Cinematic Universe in order of release. Some viewings will be paired with online lectures about the aforementioned topics to provide foundational vocabulary and information for discussions. Short assignments will be included to help verify that students have learned information from the films, presentations, and readings that are necessary for the discussions and projects. There will be two semester-long projects (one individual and one team-based) that will be due at the end of the semester.

This course would be suited for film majors, film buffs, comicbook fans, and those interested in improving their English discussion abilities.

MATERIALS IN THIS CLASS (FILMS, LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READINGS) WILL ONLY BE PRESENTED IN ENGLISH. THIS CLASS IS ONLY RECOMMENDED FOR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL ENGLISH SPEAKERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE PROFESSOR BEFORE REGISTERING IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR ENGLISH ABILITY.

이 수업의 자료들 (필름, 강의, 토론 그리고 읽을거리) 는 영어로만 제시될 것입니다. 이 수업은중간의 레벨의 영어 사용자에게만 추천됩니다. 만일 여러분의 영어 능력에 대해 확신이 서지 않는다면, 등록 전에 교수님과 상의하세요.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, using **English**, students will be able to:

- Discuss the MCU and related subjects
- Design plans for a future MCU film that integrates with the existing MCU
- Dissect the MCU and be able to explain the specific connections between the films.
- Debate the responsibilities of people with superpowers.

Course Guidelines:

- Students **must** view required films and presentations continuously.
- Students **must** actively and continuously participate in discussions and wikis.
- Students **must** act respectfully and courteously in all discussions.

Required Text/Material:

- All readings, films, and presentations will be provided online through Blackboard.

Course Websites:

<http://blackboard.suwon.ac.kr/>

Class Components:

Attendance:

- Attendance is based on access of the Blackboard course. Materials will be made available each Thursday. Between Thursday and the end of the day Wednesday, students will need to log in to the Blackboard course and answer “yes” to a single question on the attendance item.
- There are **NO** excused absences.
- If students are absent more than **four** times, they will fail the course.

Discussions:

- Discussion forums will be available for two week windows.
- Discussion participation will not be judged on English ability. Although proper English grammar is preferred, it is more important that students adequately communicate their ideas.
- Students will be expected to use topic specific vocabulary learned through presentations, wikis, and films.
- Students will be expected to participate a minimum of **3** times in each discussion forum.
- Discussion posts that do not contribute to the development of the conversation will be **deleted**. Examples of such posts include:
 - “I agree. I think Iron Man is the best superhero.”
 - “That’s a good idea.”
 - “Wow. That sounds like a good movie.”
- Discussion post will be graded on quantity rather than quality.
- There will be six discussion forums. Students will be able to drop their lowest discussion forum score at the end of the semester.

Wikis:

- Each week students will fill in wikis about characters, organizations, and important items from the films.
- There will be 14 weeks of wiki activities. Students will be able to drop their 2 lowest wiki scores at the end of the semester.

Blogs (Extra Credit):

- Students will have an opportunity to earn extra credit by posting news about future MCU films in a class blog.
- Blogs will be checked weeks 5, 8, 11, and 14. Any news that has not been posted by a student will be updated by the professor.

Exams:

- There will be a multiple choice midterm and final in this course. These will be based off of the films, presentations, news blog, and wikis from the first half of the semester and the second half of the semester.

Film Proposal Project:

- At the end of the semester, students will turn in a proposal for a future film to be added to the MCU.
- The project will be broken up into smaller deadlines throughout the semester to help ensure the student is progressing on track.

Team Project:

- Early in the semester, students will be divided into teams. These teams will work together to develop a relationship map of the characters, films, organizations, and items of the MCU.
- The project will be broken up into smaller deadlines throughout the semester to help ensure the teams are progressing on track.

Grading:

- Discussions = 25%
- Wikis = 15%
- Film Proposal Project = 20%
- Team Project = 10%
- Midterm Exam = 15%
- Final Exam = 15%
- Extra Credit Blog = 10%

NOTE: As is required by the University of Suwon, this course is graded on a curve (relative grading). The curve is as follows: A0/A+ ≤ 30%, B0/B+ ≤ 40%, C0/C+/D0/D+/F ≥ 30%. Students who do not achieve an absolute grade above 60% will automatically receive an F, no matter their relative standing in the course.

Date	Film	Lecture Topic	Assignments	Discussion	Exams
Week 1: Mar 2 - 9		Introduction to the Course			Syllabus/ Intro Quiz
Week 1-2: Mar 2 - 16	<i>Iron Man; The Incredible Hulk</i>	What is the MCU?; Iron Man & The Incredible Hulk Easter Eggs			
Week 3: Mar 17 - 23	<i>Iron Man 2</i>	Sequels, Prequels, and Spin-offs; Iron Man 2 Easter Eggs	Wiki	Discussion 1	
Week 4: Mar 24 - 30	<i>Thor</i>	Future of the MCU; Thor Easter Eggs	Wiki; Blog Due		
Week 5: Mar 31 - April 5	<i>Captain America: The First Avenger</i>	Infinity Stones; Captain America: The First Avenger Easter Eggs	Wiki	Discussion 2	
Week 6: April 6 - 12	<i>The Avengers</i>	Infinity Stones; The Avengers Easter Eggs	Wiki		
Week 7: April 13 - 19	<i>Iron Man 3</i>	Marvel Character Movie Rights; Iron Man 3 Easter Eggs	Wiki; Blog Due	Discussion 3	
Week 8: April 20 - 26	<i>Thor: The Dark World</i>	Infinity Stones; Thor: The Dark World Easter Eggs	Wiki		Midterm

Date	Film	Lecture Topic	Assignments	Discussion	Exams
Week 9: April 27 - May 3	<i>Captain America: The Winter Soldier</i>	Captain America: The Winter Soldier Easter Eggs	Wiki	Discussion 4	
Week 10: May 4 - 10	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i>	Infinity Stones; Guardians of the Galaxy Easter Eggs	Wiki		
Week 11: May 11 - 17	<i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i>	Infinity Stones; Avengers: Age of Ultron Easter Eggs	Wiki; Blog Due	Discussion 5	
Week 12: May 18 - 24	<i>Ant-Man</i>	Ant-Man Easter Eggs	Wiki		
Week 13: May 25 - 31	<i>Captain America: Civil War</i>	Captain America: Civil War Easter Eggs	Wiki	Discussion 6	
Week 14: June 1 - 7	<i>Doctor Strange</i>	Infinity Stones; Doctor Strange Easter Eggs	Wiki; Blog Due		
Week 15: June 8 - 14			Team Project & Film Proposal Project Due		Final