



## **ART 221: Visual Culture of Fandoms**

**Course Description:** Treating fandom as a pedagogical site of exploration, we work on engaging with, re-thinking, and challenging the popular culture that surrounds us. This course is situated as an auto-ethnographic study of personal fandom through interrogation of cultural artefacts that are laden with certain imagined or psychic values and appeals. Going beyond looking at images, we also consider fan objects' unfolding histories and implicit/explicit meanings that are imbued with spectral effects [in]directly influencing our personal identities.

### **Course Objectives: By taking this course, students will**

1. Broaden their understanding of popular visual culture; the elements and principles of design; and the codes and conventions of images.
2. Supply and engage with personally-meaningful images for interpretation.
3. Develop abilities to interpret, create, and respond to expressions of fan art.
4. Facilitate interactions among fellow students within affinity groups to discuss and express meaning-making in fan art & fan fiction.
5. Create their own fan art and/or fan fiction in conjunction with and in response to theoretical readings provided in class.

**Course Specifics:** Online, asynchronous. Summer 2017, Session 2.

**Contact Instructor:** Dr Laura Hetrick at [laurajh@illinois.edu](mailto:laurajh@illinois.edu) for questions/details.