Jumpstart Session: Broken Heroes, Hidden Truths
Saturday, July 18, 2020   12:45pm – 4:00 pm ONLINE
Note that class will start 15 minutes early, at 12:45pm.

Contemporary readers and audiences expect today’s heroes to operate in a morally ambiguous universe and be themselves flawed. We are fascinated when these broken heroes rise above their situation and their flaws to demonstrate unexpected nobility.

In this session, we will focus on approaches to crafting complex contemporary heroes, establishing the truths they hide but are yet revealed through their dialogue and actions, and developing story arcs that map their journeys to becoming the heroes they were meant to be.

We’ll use the 2012 film Silver Linings Playbook as a foundation for our discussion. Please watch the film in advance. Students will have time to apply the concepts with in-class writing exercises and we will discuss each student’s discoveries.

Note that class will start 15 minutes early to accommodate any technical issues that may arise for users while attempting to join the class online.

In Advance of Class:

1. Please watch the 2012 film Silver Linings Playbook starring Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver and Chris Tucker. The film will be the basis of our discussion of key class concepts.
2. All registered students should accept the Course Invitation they receive via an email from UChicago Canvas in order to access the Zoom class link. All users should download Zoom from https://zoom.us/ well in advance of class.
3. For additional preparation for online learning, visit the School’s Liberal Arts Online Resources page: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts

Course Topics:

I. Establishing Characters & the Story World
   A. The A Story and the B Story
   B. Opponents & Allies; Relationship Tracking & Change
   C. Dialogue: Revealing Hidden Truths
II. Competing Demands, Choices, Decisions & Turning Points
III. The Moral Universe & the Central Moral Event
IV. The Hero Healed: Positive, Negative and Neutral Character Arcs