

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG**  
**ENGL- 3980.3-050**

**Topics in Comics & Graphic Narratives: Immigration, Exile, and Diaspora**

Term: Fall 2018  
Time: Wed. 6:00-9:00pm  
Room: 3M69  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 12:30-1:30pm  
(or by appointment before class)

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind  
Office: 2A38  
Phone: 204-786-9198 (emergencies only)  
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**\*do not use Nexus email**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on comics and graphic narratives that represent diverse experiences of immigration, exile, and diaspora (the dispersal of a people). We will read primarily non-fiction print and digital comics, from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to now, that consider how cartoonists have drawn their own and other's experiences of voluntary and forced movement across borders. We will study a diverse group of personal narratives that draw readers into the lived experiences of migration, immigration, exile, settlement, and adaptation, and we will explore the variety of push-pull factors that put children, adolescents, and adults in motion across cultures and countries.

Topics include: identity and difference; memory and nostalgia; childhood and the figure of the child; intergenerational and intercultural conflict; racial, cultural, and religious conflict; social class and immigrant labour; language and translation; trauma and resilience; human rights and citizenship; and testimony and witness. Students will learn how to study comics as a distinct form and how to draw on literary studies, cultural studies, screen studies, art history, media and communications, and other disciplines to write about visual-verbal texts.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The University of Winnipeg is in Treaty One territory and is located on the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. The English Department recognizes the role of the English language and English as an academic discipline in contributing to the historical and present formations of settler colonialism and imperialism in Canada and around the world. In giving expression to our Land Acknowledgement, we commit ourselves to engaging with, questioning, and challenging these formations in ways that support the decolonizing work being done by Indigenous peoples in Manitoba and elsewhere.

To learn more about this land acknowledgment, see "English Department Land Acknowledgment Resource Statement" on Nexus" posted to Nexus.

**REQUIRED TEXTS** (in order of reading)

Students must bring books in print or digital form, and other required readings, to class on the scheduled dates (see the Course Schedule on p.4). Some additional digital readings will be required and links will be posted to Nexus.

1. Henry (Yoshitaka) Kiyami, *The Four Immigrants Manga: A Japanese Experience in San Francisco, 1904-1924*. Stonebridge, 1998. Print.
2. Bui, Thi. *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*. Abrams, 2017. Print or Kindle.
3. Findakly, Brigitte and Lewis Trondheim. *Poppies of Iraq*. Drawn & Quarterly, 2017. Print.

4. Modan, Ruth. *The Property*. Drawn & Quarterly, 2014. Print or Kindle.
5. Evans, Kate. *Threads From the Refugee Crisis*. Verso, 2018. Print or Kindle.
6. Lang, Swifty and Michael Lapinski. *Feeding Ground* (Collected English Edition). Boom, 2011. Kindle.
7. Grant, Pat. *Blue*. Top Shelf, 2012. Kindle.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

There are many websites dedicated to writing and research skills but not all of them are appropriate for academic writing. I have posted links to the ones you should consult for this course at Nexus>Writing and Research Resources.

### **ASSIGNMENTS (more info provided in class)**

**All assignments must be submitted in Word files to Nexus>Assignments**

#### **TEXTUAL ANALYSIS due to Nexus by 5pm on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> (1000 words) 20%**

Using the same method as Newgarden and Karisik in "How to Read Nancy," write a 1000-page analysis of one strip from *The Four Immigrants Manga*.

#### **TRACING PROJECT due to Nexus by 5pm on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### **2 pages of tracings with notes + 2000 word critical analysis 30%**

\*Peer-review workshop scheduled on Nov. 14. Students who do not bring a complete draft of their critical analysis to workshop in this class, or who are absent without explanation or documentation, will have 5% deducted from their assignment grade.

#### **CLASS PRESENTATION dates will vary 20%**

**10 minute analysis of a 2-page sequence (in groups of 2) = 10%;**

**1000 word individual written report due by 5pm one week after presentation = 10%**

#### **TAKE HOME EXAM (2000 words) 20%**

Distributed on November 28<sup>th</sup> and due to Nexus by 5pm on December 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **PARTICIPATION & IN-CLASS WORK 10%**

Participation grades are based on the following rubric

<b>POOR 0-2%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not participate in class discussion or small group exercises</li> <li>• does not ask questions</li> <li>• does not listen to others, or interrupts and dominates discussion</li> <li>• has side conversations during class discussion or is distracted by social media</li> <li>• does not complete assigned readings</li> </ul>
<b>FAIR 3-5%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participates occasionally and responds minimally to direct questions</li> <li>• expects other students to do majority of small group work</li> <li>• has completed assigned readings but not prepared for discussion (eg. has not flagged sequences or pages to discuss, thought of comments or questions for discussion)</li> <li>• does not always listen to others, sometimes interrupts or dominates discussion</li> <li>• occasionally distracted by side conversations or social media</li> </ul>
<b>GOOD 6-8%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• well prepared, comes to class with examples, questions, comments</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listens to others and responds, supports, or challenges others' opinions respectfully</li> <li>• consistent engagement with discussion, not distracted in class</li> <li>• participates effectively in small group work and contributes to collaborative learning environment by respecting peers</li> <li>• volunteers to answer questions or read passages regularly</li> </ul>
<b>EXCELLENT 9-10%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very well prepared, relates assigned readings to broader course concepts, terminology, or other course readings</li> <li>• listens to others and advances discussion by synthesizing, extending, or challenging others' opinions respectfully</li> <li>• offers new and insightful approaches or analyses</li> <li>• always willing to respond to questions or read passages</li> </ul>

### **GRADING SCALE**

A+	90 - 100%	GPA 4.50	C+	65 - 69%	GPA 2.5
A	85 - 89%	GPA 4.25	C	60 - 64%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 - 84%	GPA 4.0	D	50 - 59%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 - 79%	GPA 3.5	F	Below 50%	GPA 0
B	70 - 74%	GPA 3.0			

### **NOTES**

1. This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some of the above topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
2. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.
3. Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.
4. Work submitted for evaluation must be either typed or text processed.
5. Cellular phones and other electronic devices MUST be turned off during classes.
6. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or digitized copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
7. Students are advised to read the pertinent pages of the current course calendar for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals. Concerning plagiarism, please note that as a general rule, an F in the course will be the penalty recommended by the English Departmental Review Committee to the Senate Committee on Academic Misconduct, for plagiarism on major assignments in English Department courses.

8. Accessibility Services: Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
9. The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposures to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.
10. Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at [www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy](http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy) or call 204-786-9780.
11. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar.
12. Friday, November 12th, 2018 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in September 2018 and end in December 2018 in the 2018 Fall term. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.
13. Late Assignment Penalties: I encourage you to speak with me (in person, not over email) in advance if you anticipate handing an assignment in late due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness or a personal/family emergency. **Note that having a lot of work to do for your other courses is not a reasonable excuse for a late assignment in this course.** Unless prior arrangements have been made or you present a medical/legal note explaining why your assignment has been handed in late, the penalty for a late assignment is: 10% off immediately when it is not submitted on the due date and 2% off each extra weekday it is late. No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after 7 days.
14. The English Department wishes to ensure your right to privacy regarding handing in and getting back assignments is protected. Most assignments will be handed in and handed back in class or at the Instructor's office. If assignments are to be handled in another way and you are concerned about others having access to your work, you should attach to your assignment a self-addressed envelope that can be sealed. If this is not done, it is assumed that you have waived your concerns in this area.
15. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
16. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
17. Students registered for this course are expected to demonstrate competency in English appropriate to the first-year level. Students needing additional assistance may contact the Writing Centre at

[http://rhetoric.uwinnipeg.ca/Tutoring\\_Centre/index.html](http://rhetoric.uwinnipeg.ca/Tutoring_Centre/index.html) for writing resources and tutoring services, or contact the English Language Program at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-information> for classes in English as an Additional Language and related services.

18. Students are advised that the UW Bookstore may run out of textbooks early in the term. Also, the bookstore always ships textbooks back to the publisher if they are not purchased within the first few weeks of term. Students are responsible for communicating directly with the bookstore if they need to order texts or ask for texts to be held for them.

19. For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/english-index>

20. Students who plan to conduct research interview, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/research-human-ethics> for submission requirements and deadlines.

21. All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect)

22. Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

23. No make-up classes scheduled.

#### **No classes:**

October 8, 2018 Thanksgiving

October 7-13, 2018 Mid-term reading week

November 11, 2018 Remembrance Day

Dec 22/18-Jan 2/19 University closed

#### **INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES**

1. **EVENING COURSE:** Class starts promptly at 6pm and ends on or a bit before 9:00pm, with a 20-minute break around 7:15pm. To accommodate students who come straight from work or other classes, you may eat your dinner quietly in the first 15 minutes of class, during which time we will do warm up exercises and have general discussion. Around 6:15, you will be asked to clear away your food and give 100% of your focus to the work of the class.

More generally, students who arrive late or start packing up their things early disrupt the class and make it hard for the rest of us to stay focused. If you have a legitimate reason for arriving late or leaving early on specific days, I would appreciate you letting me know in advance.

2. **EMAIL:** I only respond to students' emails during regular work hours (Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm) and I may take up to 24 hours to respond. Due to the high volume of junk mail I receive, I can only respond to emails sent from UW accounts. **Please do not email me through Nexus as I cannot reply directly.** Please observe professional email etiquette and do not add me or your classmates to any mailing lists.

3. **MOBILE DEVICES AND LAPTOPS:** All phones must be turned to silent and put away before class starts. Students using laptops or tablets must sit at the back of the room to avoid distracting other students. You may not record lectures or class discussions.

4. **CHILDCARE EMERGENCIES:** If you have a childcare emergency, and you can provide your child(ren) with activities to do quietly in the back of the room or next to you, I'd rather have you attend with them for as long as possible than miss the class.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to changes announced in class)

**N = link posted to Nexus>Required Readings**

Date	Required Reading (complete before class)	Other Info
Sep. 5	Introductions *After class, read "How to Read Nancy" to prep for first assignment (N)	
Sep.12	<i>The Four Immigrants Manga</i> Ch. 1 of Kukkonen, <i>How to Study Comics and Graphic Novels</i> (e-book at UW Library website)	
Sep.19	<i>The Four Immigrants Manga</i>	Presentations 1 & 2
Sep. 26	<i>The Best We Could Do</i>	Presentations 3 & 4
Oct. 3	<i>The Best We Could Do</i> Guest speaker: "Concise, clear and captivating: Better writing for 21st Century audiences"	<b>Writing workshop: Bring at least 2 full paragraphs of your Textual Analysis</b>
FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES		
Oct. 17	<i>Poppies of Iraq</i>	Presentations 5, 6 & 7 <b>Textual Analysis Due by 5pm</b>
Oct. 24	<i>The Property</i>	Presentations 8, 9 & 10
Oct. 31	<i>Threads</i>	Presentations 11, 12 & 13
Nov.7	<i>Threads</i> Migrant & Refugee web comics (links on Nexus)	Presentations 14, 15 & 16
Nov. 14	<i>Feeding Ground</i>	<b>Peer Review Workshop (1 hour)</b>
Nov.21	<i>Blue</i>	Presentations 17 & 18 <b>Tracing Project due by 5pm</b>
Nov.28	In-class screening: <i>Window Horses</i>	<b>Take Home distributed &amp; posted to Nexus, due by 5pm on December 5<sup>th</sup></b>