

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
ENGL- 1004.3-004
Introduction to English – Reading Culture
GRAPHIC NOVELS

Term: Winter 2018
Time: Tues & Thurs 1:00-2:15pm
Room: 2M67
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:30-3:30pm
(or by appointment)

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind
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***do not use Nexus email**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the diverse and vibrant storytelling worlds of graphic novels. We will read a range of literary genres, including coming-of-age fiction, auto/biography, Indigenous gothic, and speculative fiction, all in the form of comic books. The course also focuses on developing visual literacies through reading and writing comics criticism. Lectures and discussions will teach students the specific terminology and foundational theories of comics studies, an interdisciplinary field that draws on literary studies, cultural studies, media and communication studies, art history, and film studies. Assignments include a sequence analysis (close reading), a research essay portfolio leading up to the research essay, in-class work, and a final exam.

Students need no prior exposure to comics or graphic novels, just a willingness to treat them seriously as literary and cultural objects, and a curiosity about how to analyze their unique features. Students should be prepared to discuss serious historical, political, and cultural subjects, such as the Holocaust, war and conflict, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and migrant and refugee experiences, all in a popular form that is emerging as a significant site of serious storytelling and social commentary.

NOTE: The prerequisite for upper-level English courses is 6 credit hours of First-Year English, including either ENGL-1001(6) or ENGL-1000(3). There are two ways to fulfill this requirement: by taking 1001(6), or by taking 1000(3) plus 3 other credit hours of English at the first-year level. **Students planning to continue in English should take English 1A (ENGL-1000) in addition to this course.**

REQUIRED TEXTS (in order of reading)

- Except for the course textbook, Kukkonen's *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels*, students must have **hard copies of the graphic novels, whether new or rental, library, borrowed, or used versions. Except for Kukkonen, e-book versions are not permitted** because this course studies the material format of graphic novels (size, scale, binding, volume breaks, paratextual materials) and the reading experiences of page layouts and page turns.
- Students must bring books and other required readings to class on the scheduled dates (see the Course Schedule on p.6).

Kukkonen, Karin. *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. (Purchased or accessed as a UW Library e-book)

Clowes, Daniel. *Ghost World*. Fantagraphics, 2001.

Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. Pantheon Books, 1997.

Satrapa, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. Pantheon Books, 2007.

Robertson, David Alexander et al. *Will I See?* Portage and Main, 2017.

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. Scholastic, 2007.

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

SEQUENCE ANALYSIS (500 words due by 5pm on Jan. 30 to Nexus)

20%

A close reading of any two-page sequence of *Ghost World*.

RESEARCH ESSAY PORTFOLIO (45% total)

Students may write on either *Maus* or *Persepolis*.

1. Pre-Essay Critical Reflection + In-Class Research Exercise (Mar. 6)

5%

300-word reflection prepared for class + in-class work

2. Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (Due by 5pm on Mar.6 to Nexus)

10%

300-word Proposal & Five Annotated Bibliography entries (three must be peer-reviewed sources). A list of peer-reviewed articles students may use will be posted to Nexus.

3. Research Essay (1500-1700 words due by 5pm on Apr. 3 to Nexus)

30%

An argumentative essay that combines scholarly research and close analysis of sequences in either *Maus* or *Persepolis*.

FINAL EXAM

25%

Closed book exam on April 17th from 9am-12pm in 2M67.

Format: five definitions, two short answers, one five paragraph essay.

PARTICIPATION & IN-CLASS WORK

10%

Participation grades are based on the following rubric

POOR 0-2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not participate in class discussion or small group exercises• does not ask questions• does not listen to others, or interrupts and dominates discussion• has side conversations during class discussion or is distracted by social media• does not complete assigned readings
FAIR 3-5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• participates occasionally and responds minimally to direct questions• expects other students to do majority of small group work• 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)• does not always listen to others, sometimes interrupts or dominates discussion• occasionally distracted by side conversations or social media
GOOD 6-8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• well prepared, comes to class with examples, questions, comments• listens to others and responds, supports, or challenges others' opinions respectfully• consistent engagement with discussion, not distracted in class• participates effectively in small group work and contributes to collaborative learning environment by respecting peers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteers to answer questions or read passages regularly
EXCELLENT 9-10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very well prepared, relates assigned readings to broader course concepts, terminology, or other course readings • listens to others and advances discussion by synthesizing, extending, or challenging others' opinions respectfully • offers new and insightful approaches or analyses • always willing to respond to questions or read passages

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. Work submitted for evaluation must be either typed or text processed.
3. Cellular phones and other electronic devices **MUST** be turned off during classes.
4. Your uwinnipeg email address will normally be used for course-related correspondence.
5. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform you via uwinnipeg email, as well as via the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.
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 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 or call 204-786-9780.
11. *Avoiding Academic Misconduct*: Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or essay trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves "aiding and abetting" plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
12. *Avoiding Copyright Violation*: Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the same class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also obtain instructor/presenter permission before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
13. 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.
14. **Wednesday, March 14th, 2018** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in January 2018 and end in April 2018 in the 2018 Winter term. Please note that withdrawing before the Voluntary Withdrawal date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.
15. **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.
16. 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.

17. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
18. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
19. 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.
20. For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/english-index>
21. 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
22. 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
23. 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>

Reading Week is February 18th – 24th, 2018. No classes.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES ON COURSE ETIQUETTE & COMMUNICATIONS

1. **BEING ON TIME, PRESENT, AND STAYING FOCUSED:** Class starts promptly at 1pm and ends on time at 2:15pm. 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, hotmail, yahoo, gmail, or other non-UW accounts.** 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 must sit at the back of the room to avoid distracting other students. You may not record lectures or class discussions.
4. **FOOD:** Please do not eat meals in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to changes announced in class)

N = link posted to Nexus>Required Readings

Date	Required Reading (complete before class)	Other Info
Jan. 4	Introductions	Post photo to Nexus
Jan. 9	Ch. 5 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	Optional reading: "How to Read Nancy" (N)
Jan. 11	Ch. 1 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	
Jan. 16	<i>Ghost World</i> (all)	
Jan. 18	<i>Ghost World</i> + Ch. 2 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	
Jan. 23	<i>Maus</i> (vol. 1)	
Jan. 25	<i>Maus</i> (all) + Ch. 3 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	
Jan. 30	<i>Maus</i> (all) + Ewert, Jeanne C. "Reading Visual Narrative: Art Spiegelman's <i>Maus</i> " (N)	Sequence Analysis Due (20%)
Feb. 1	<i>Persepolis</i> (vol. 1)	
Feb. 6	<i>Persepolis</i> (all)	
Feb.15	<i>Persepolis</i> (all) + Chute, Hillary. "The Texture of Retracing in Marjane Satrapi's <i>Persepolis</i> ." (N)	
	READING WEEK	
Feb.27	Digital comics by Emily Carroll (see Nexus for links)	
Mar.1	Ch. 6 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	Essay Writing Workshop
Mar.6	Bring your pre-essay critical reflection to use in class and then hand in	In-Class Research Exercise (5%)
Mar.8	<i>Will I See?</i>	
Mar.13	<i>Will I See?</i> + Henzi, Sarah. "'A Necessary Antidote': Comics, Graphic Novels, and Indigenous Writing" (N)	
Mar.15	Guest Lecture: Jamie Michaels, "Writing Graphic Novels"	
Mar.20	<i>Will I See?</i>	Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due (10%)
Mar.22	<i>The Arrival</i> (all)	
Mar.27	<i>The Arrival</i> + Nabizedeh, Golnar, "Questions for Shaun Tan" (N)	
Mar.29	<i>The Arrival</i>	
Apr.3	Wrap Up and Exam Review	Research Essay Due (30%)
Apr.17	FINAL EXAM (25%) 9am-12pm in 2M67	