

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

Term: Fall 2018
Time: Tues & Thurs 2:30-3:45pm
Room: 2M67
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 12:30-1:30pm
(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 comics and graphic novels. We will read a range of literary genres, including coming-of-age, auto/biography, Indigenous gothic, and speculative fiction, all in the form of graphic narrative. The course also focuses on developing visual literacies through reading and writing comics criticism. Lectures and discussions introduce 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 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.**

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 and other required readings to class on the scheduled dates (see the Course Schedule on p.6).

1. Kukkonen, Karin. *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. (Purchased or accessed as a UW Library e-book)
2. Chast, Roz, Ed. *The Best American Comics 2016*. Houghton Mifflin, 2016. Print.
3. Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. Pantheon Books, 1997. Print.
4. Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. Pantheon Books, 2007. Print.
5. Moore, Alan et al. *Saga of the Swamp Thing Book One*. Vertigo, 2011. Print.
6. Robertson, David Alexander et al. *Will I See?* Portage and Main, 2017. Print.
7. Odjick, Jay. *Kagagi: The Raven*. Arcana, 2010. (Purchase digital copy on Comixology)

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 MLA format and as Word files to Nexus>Assignments.

IN-CLASS DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY (Sep. 13, 5 short paragraphs) 10%

Open book assignment: students will need *The Best American Comics 2016*

SEQUENCE ANALYSIS (1000 words due by 5pm on Oct. 2 to Nexus) 15%

A close reading of any two-page sequence from the assigned readings in Chast.

RESEARCH ESSAY PORTFOLIO (45% total)

Students may write on *Maus*, *Persepolis*, or *Saga of the Swamp Thing*.

1. Pre-Essay Critical Reflection + In-Class Research Exercise (Oct. 25) 5%

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

2. Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (Due by 5pm on Nov. 8 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. Peer Review Workshop (in class Nov. 27th)

Bring a final draft of your research essay to class to exchange with another student. Students who do not bring a complete final draft, or who miss the class without providing medical or other documentation, will have 10% automatically deducted off the grade of their research essay.

3. Research Essay (1500-1700 words due by 5pm on Nov. 29 to Nexus) 25%

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

FINAL EXAM 25%

Closed book, three hour exam scheduled during the exam period

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 • 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. 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 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. 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 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

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 ON COURSE ETIQUETTE & COMMUNICATIONS

1. BEING ON TIME, PRESENT, AND STAYING FOCUSED: Class starts promptly at 2:30pm and ends on time at 3:45pm. 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
Sep. 4	Introductions	
Sep. 6	Lecture & discussion: How to Read Comics <i>Bring a favourite short (3-4 panel) newspaper comic strip to class (hard copy so we can pass them around)</i>	
Sep.11	Ch. 1 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i> Short Comic 1: Anne Emond, "The Swim" (Chast 63-66)	
Sep. 13	Bring Chast to class	In-class diagnostic essay (10%)
Sep. 18	Ch. 2 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i> Short Comic 2: Gilbert Hernandez, excerpt from <i>Bumps in the Night</i> (Chast 338-356)	
Sep. 20	Short Comic 3: Adrian Tomine, "Killing and Dying" (Chast 1-23)	
Sep. 25	Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus</i> (vol. I) Ch. 3 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	
Sep. 27	<i>Maus</i> (all)	

Oct. 2	<i>Maus</i>	Sequence Analysis Due (15%)
Oct. 4	Marjane Satrapi, <i>Persepolis</i> (vol. I)	
FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES		
Oct. 16	<i>Persepolis</i> (all)	
Oct. 18	<i>Persepolis</i> Ch. 6 of Kukkonen, <i>Studying Comics and Graphic Novels</i>	
Oct. 23	Bring your pre-essay critical reflection to use in class and then hand in	In-Class Research Exercise (5%)
Oct. 25	Alan Moore et al., <i>Saga of the Swamp Thing</i>	
Oct. 30	<i>Saga of the Swamp Thing</i>	
Nov. 1	Working with scholarly sources Read and bring to class: Whitted, Qiana J. "Of Slaves and Other Swamp Things: Black Southern History as Comic Book Horror." (N)	Research Skills workshop

Nov. 6	David Robertson et al., <i>Will I See?</i>	
Nov. 8	<i>Will I See?</i>	Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due (10%)
Nov. 13	Jay Odjick, <i>Kagagi</i> (read on <i>Comixology</i>)	
Nov. 15	<i>Kagagi</i> in-class screening and discussion of APTN adaptation	
Nov. 20	Guest speaker: Sonya Ballantyne on Indigenous comics & superheroes	
Nov. 22	Short Comic 4: GG, "Don't Leave Me Alone" (Chast 357-372)	
Nov. 27	Peer Review Workshop	
Nov. 29	Wrap Up and Exam Review	Research Essay Due (25%)
	FINAL EXAM (25%) scheduled during the exam period	