



Topics in Comics & Graphic Narratives: Immigration and Arrival

Course Info

ENGL 3980-001 Fall 2019
T/Th 2:30-3:45pm Room 3D04
Dr. Candida Rifkind Office: 2A38
Email: c.rifkind@uwinnipeg.ca



I respond to emails
within 24 hours from
**Mon-Fri between 9-
5pm**. Please don't
email me through Nex-
us, though!

I am always available to discuss any
aspect of the course and your assign-
ments (at any stage) on **Tues & Thurs
12-1:15pm & Wed 3:30-4:45pm**. Use
this app to book, cancel, & reschedule
appointments, get reminders, & see
my weekly schedule:

[https://
candidarifkind.youcanbook.me](https://candidarifkind.youcanbook.me)

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 Acknowledgment, 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.

See the English Department website for more info.

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I use Nexus to post
news, updates, and
course info, so be
sure to check or sign
up for notifications!

Course Description

This course focuses on comics and graphic narratives that represent diverse experiences of immigration, exile, and diaspora (the dispersal of a people). The course begins with non-fiction print and digital comics, from the early 20th century to now, to study how cartoonists have drawn their own and other's experiences of voluntary and forced movement across borders.

We then study fictional comics that tell immigration stories through the genres of fantasy and SF.

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
- 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.

Required Texts in Order of Reading

Read or view before the scheduled date & bring to class (see p.6). Students may purchase print or legal digital copies.

Books

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. Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. Scholastic, 2007. Print or Kindle.

Online

1. Fransman, Karrie and Lula Mebrahtu. *North Star Fading*. Positive Negatives, 2018. Streaming video: <https://positivenegatives.org/story/north-star-fading/>.
2. Huynh, Matt. *The Boat*. SBS Digital Creative Labs, 2015. Interactive video: <http://www.matthuyh.com/the-boat>
3. Grant, Pat. *Blue*. Top Shelf, 2012. Kindle or online: <http://www.boltonblue.com/1.html>

Ebook (UW Library)

1. Kukkonen, Karin. *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels*. Wiley Blackwell, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central.

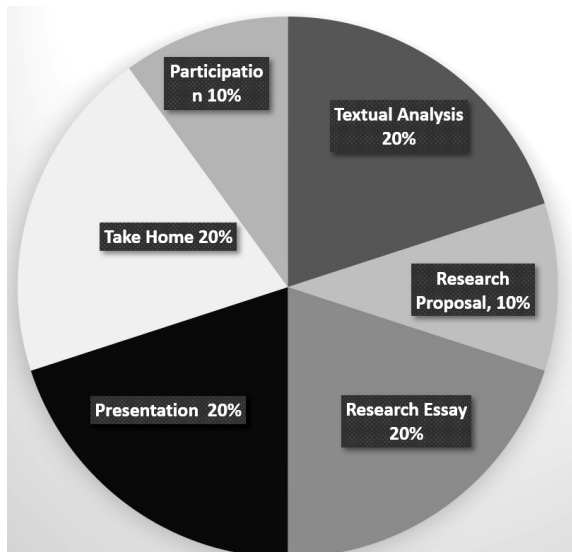
Ordered
through the
UW Bookstore

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 for each one in class/on Nexus)

Important: All assignments must be submitted in Word files to the appropriate folder in Nexus>Assignments. See Note 15 on p.5 for the Late Assignment Policy and the Life Happens Clause.



- 1. Textual Analysis due to Nexus by 5pm on Sep. 24th 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*.
- 2. Research Essay due to Nexus by 5pm on Nov. 21st 30%**
 - a. Proposal (250 words) + Annotated Bib. due Oct. 22nd (10%)
 - b. Research Essay (2500-3000 words) due Nov. 26th (20%)
- 3. Class Presentation (dates will vary, 2 parts) 20%**
 - a. 10 minute analysis of a 2-page sequence (in groups of 2) worth 10%
 - b. 1000 word individual written report due by 5pm one week after presentation worth 10%
- 4. Take Home Exam (2000 words) 20%**
Distributed on November 28th due to Nexus by 5pm December 5th
- 5. Participation: Selfie Sign Ins (see next page) 10%**

Participation Grade: Selfie Sign Ins and Final Reflection

At the start of each class, you will receive an index card. On the front, you will draw a quick self-portrait, sometimes based on a prompt (paired with the discussed text), and in no more than THREE MINUTES. On the back, you will write your name and date, and then you will hand in your card as proof of attendance. This will be worth 5% of the participation grade, based on the number of cards submitted by the final class:

- 5/5 for 16+ cards;
- 4/5 for 12-14 cards
- 3/5 for 9-11 cards
- 2/5 for 8 cards and below

I will return your stack of Selfie Sign-In cards to you on November 26th so you can see how they developed over the twelve weeks.

In the final class, on November 28th, you will have **20 minutes to work in groups of 3-4 to show your cards to each other and discuss how they developed over the course**. Then you will have **30 minutes to write an in-class Reflection** (2-3 paragraphs, course texts may be consulted) about what you learned from this exercise about drawing, comics, and cartooning styles. Students may write by hand in booklets or they may bring a laptop to type their response and submit to Nexus at the end of class. The Reflection forms the other 5% of your participation grade and will be evaluated as follows:

- 5/5 for thoughtful self-analysis that studies the progression of all the drawings & makes connections to 3 or more course readings
- 4/5 for thoughtful self-analysis that comments on several of the drawings & makes connections to 2 or more course readings
- 3/5 for some self-analysis that comments generally on the process and connects to 1 course reading
- 2/5 and below for overly general, vague, unspecific comments that don't make connections to course readings

This is a required participation exercise. Students who miss this class due to illness or another legitimate reasons must provide documentation and contact me as soon as possible after the class to make up the grade.

Grading Scale

A+	89.5 - 100%	GPA 4.50
A	84.5 - 89.4%	GPA 4.25
A-	79.5 - 84.4%	GPA 4.0
B+	74.5 - 79.4%	GPA 3.5
B	69.5 - 74.4%	GPA 3.0
C+	64.5 - 69.4%	GPA 2.5
C	59.5 - 64.4%	GPA 2.0
D	49.5 - 59.4%	GPA 1.0
F	Below 49.4%	GPA 0

All grades will be recorded throughout the term in the Nexus gradebook. All assignments submitted on Nexus will be graded electronically using Word Track Changes, and uploaded with comments to the same folder where they were submitted. If you have any questions at any point about your grades or comments, let me know.

Course Values & Instructor's Notes

I hope each of you actively engages in this course and finds topics, texts, and artists that speak to you as students and human beings. I value a cooperative, inclusive classroom environment where we all learn from each other. If you find yourself struggling at any point with the course material or assignments, I am here to help.

Being 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.

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.

Notes

1. Course Outline: 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. **All changes will be announced & posted to Nexus well in advance.**

2. Class cancellations: When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will inform students via uwinnipeg email and post an announcement on Nexus. A class cancellation form will also be posted outside the classroom.



The English Department also Tweets general info and class cancellations. Follow us!
@UofWEnglish

3. Check your email!

You have a responsibility to regularly check your uwinnipeg e-mail address to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.

4. Formatting: Work submitted for evaluation must be in Word, **except when stated otherwise (in-class sketches, for instance)**

5. Electronics in class: We will collectively decide on a phone/tablet/laptop class policy that will be posted to Nexus by week 2.

6. Backup copies: Retain a copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading, and be sure that is the final version.

7. Plagiarism: 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. Avoiding Academic Misconduct. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or 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.

9. 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 file-sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek my prior permission before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

12. UWSA Student Advocate: 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.

10. 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.

11. Scent-free: 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.

More Notes

13. There is no mid-term or final exam in this course.

14. Withdrawal Date: November 12th, 2019 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in September 2019 and end in December 2019 in the 2019 Fall term. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

15. Late Assignment Policy

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 assign-

10% off immediately when it is not submitted on the due date and 2% off each extra weekday it is late .

Life Happens Clause

Once in the course, each student may invoke this clause **to submit one assignment up to 5 days late with no explanation and no penalty.** Upload the assignment to the appropriate Nexus folder and write "Life Happens Clause" in the comments.

except

16. Privacy: The English Department wishes to ensure your right to privacy regarding handing in and getting back assignments is protected. **Apart from in-class work, all assignments will be submitted and returned through Nexus. Do not email assignments.**

17 & 18 (remember: we don't have a final exam): Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.

English Department info:
www.uwinnipeg.ca/english

19. Writing Skills: 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

20. Bookstore: 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.

21. Research Ethics: 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 <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

22. Respect: 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. Religious Holidays: Students may choose not to attend classes 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 Dates

Oct. 14 Thanksgiving (UW closed)

Oct. 15-18 Fall Reading Week (no classes)

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (UW closed)

Dec. 23—Jan.1 Holiday Break (UW closed)

Weekly Course Schedule

Date	Reading Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete readings before class subjects to change announced in class & posted to Nexus 	Other Info
Sep. 3	Introductions	
Sep. 5	How Comics Work (lecture)	After class, read "How to Read Nancy" (N)
Sep.10	<i>Four Immigrants Manga</i> Ch. 1 of Kukkonen (e-book at UW Library)	
Sep. 12	<i>Four Immigrants Manga</i>	
Sep.17	Writing Workshop: Clear and Concise Academic Style	
Sep. 19	<i>The Best We Could Do</i>	
Sep. 24	<i>The Best We Could Do</i> Ch. 3 of Kukkonen	Textual Analysis Due
Sep. 26	<i>The Best We Could Do</i>	
Oct. 1	<i>Poppies of Iraq</i>	
Oct. 3	<i>Poppies of Iraq</i>	
Oct. 8	<i>The Property</i>	
Oct. 10	<i>The Property</i> Ch. 2 of Kukkonen	
Oct. 15-18	FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES	
Oct. 22	<i>The Arrival</i>	Research Proposal & Annotated Bib. Due
Oct. 24	<i>The Arrival</i>	
Oct. 29	Guest speaker: Katherena Vermette on researching historical comics	Room TBA
Oct. 31	<i>The Boat and North Star Fading</i>	
Nov. 5	In-Class Research Exercise Ch. 6 of Kukkonen	Bring your graded Proposal & Annotated Bib.
Nov.21	<i>Blue</i>	
Nov. 26	<i>Blue</i>	Research Essay Due
Nov. 28	In-Class Discussion of Selfie-Sign Ins & Distribution of Take Home Exam	Take Home Essay Due December 5th