

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
ENGL-3980.001
Topics in Comics and Graphic Narratives: CANADIAN COMICS

Term: Fall 2017
Time: Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15pm
Room: 3C14
Email: c.rifkind@uwinnipeg.ca
*Please do not email me through Nexus

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind
Office: 2A38
Phone: 204-786-9198 (emergencies only)
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:30pm
(or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since the early 1990s, Canadian cartoonists have been at the forefront of the alternative comics movement that continues to gain critical, academic, and popular attention. This course introduces students to an array of alternative Canadian print and web graphic narratives that tell a diversity of stories in various visual styles, from classic cartooning to a feminist punk aesthetic to experiments in narrative immersion. Along the way, we will discuss pivotal moments in Canadian history and culture and explore more personal stories of coming-of-age and self-representation. The readings invite discussion of such topics as history and myth, peace and conflict, migration and immigration, memory and nostalgia, bodies and sexualities, place and identity, self and other, reality and fantasy. In addition to the comics and graphic narratives, critical reading will introduce students to key concepts and methods in comics studies.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students must use print copies, except for the webcomics by Emily Carroll. All texts except *Undocumented* are available through the UW Bookstore. *Undocumented* has been ordered at a special discount through INDX in Lockhart Hall.

Print

Brown, Chester. *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip biography*. Tenth Anniversary Ed. Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly, 2013.
Chantler, Scott. *Two Generals*. Toronto: Emblem, 2011.
Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. *Skim*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2010.
Doucet, Julie. *My New York Diary*. Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly, 2010.
Yahgulanaas, Michael. *Red: A Haida Manga*. Second Ed. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2014.
Chak, Tings. *Undocumented: The Architecture of Migrant Detention*. Toronto: Ad Astra Comix, 2017.

Digital (links provided on Nexus)

Graphic short stories by Emily Carroll posted at <http://www.emcarroll.com/>

- "His Face All Red" (2010)
- "Margot's Room" (2011)
- "Some Other Animal's Meat" (2016)
- "The Hare's Bride" (2010)
- "The Three Snake Leaves" (2013)

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 under "Outline and Assignments" at the Nexus site.

ASSIGNMENTS (further information about each assignment will be distributed in class)

SEP. 28 SEQUENCE ANALYSIS 15%

Select two sequential pages from Chester Brown's *Louis Riel* and write a 1000-word close analysis.

RESEARCH ESSAY

Students may select any course text(s) except *Louis Riel* for the Research Essay

- 1. Proposal (250-300 words) and Annotated Bibliography (min. 5 sources) 10%**
Due by 4pm November 7th
- 2. Essay (2500-3000 words) 30%**
Due by 4pm November 30th

TAKE HOME EXAM (2000 words) 30%

Distributed on November 30th and due to Nexus Dropbox on December 8th by 4pm

Oct. 19 IN-CLASS COMICS CRITICISM WORKSHOP 5%

Students will be randomly assigned one of two critical articles on *Skim* and given questions to bring to the in-class workshop on this day.

PARTICIPATION 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			

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT 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. 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.
5. 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.
6. Accessibility Services:
 - a. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. **Friday, November 10th, 2017** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in September 2017 and end in December 2017 in the 2017 Fall term.

11. **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.
12. 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.
13. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
14. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/english-index>
18. 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.
19. 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
20. 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>
21. **Mid-term Reading Week for Fall term is October 8th – 14th, 2017. 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, tablets, and laptops must be turned to silent and put away before class starts.** The only exception is students who have permission through Accessibility Services to use electronic devices in class and who have consulted me in advance. 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; bulleted readings posted to Nexus)

Date	Reading	Other Information
Sep. 5	Introductions	
Sep. 7	Canadian mythologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Francis, Introduction to <i>National Dreams</i> 	
Sep. 12	Reading comics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Berger, "Drawn to that Moment" Karin Kukkonen, "What's in a Page: Close-Reading Comics" 	
Sep. 14	Chester Brown, <i>Louis Riel</i>	
Sep. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert Braz, Introduction to <i>The False Traitor</i> 	
Sep. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Brown, "My Mom Was a Schizophrenic" 	
Sep. 26 & 28	David H.T. Wong, <i>Escape to Gold Mountain</i>	SEP. 28 = SEQUENCE ANALYSIS DUE
Oct. 3	Scott Chantler, <i>Two Generals</i>	
Oct. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Warley and Alan Filewod, "Visual Silence and Graphic Memory: An Interdisciplinary Approach to <i>Two Generals</i>" 	
READING WEEK - NO CLASSES		
Oct. 17	Mariko Tamaki & Jillian Tamaki, <i>Skim</i>	
Oct. 19	Students will be randomly assigned one of the following articles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monica Chiu, "A Moment Outside of Time : The Visual Life of Homosexuality and Race in Tamaki and Tamaki's <i>Skim</i>" OR Marty Fink, "It Gets Fatter: Graphic Fatness and Resilient Eating in Mariko and Jillian Tamaki's <i>Skim</i>" 	COMICS CRITICISM WORKSHOP (5%)
Oct. 24	Julie Doucet, <i>My New York Diary</i>	
Oct. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catriona MacLeod, "Sex and Death in Quebec: Female Autobiography and Julie Doucet's <i>Changements d'adresses</i>" 	
Oct. 31	Emily Carroll short comics (web)	
Nov. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On digital comics from Scott McCloud's <i>Reinventing Comics</i> (pp.220-31) 	
Nov. 7	Background to Haida visual culture	RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE
Nov. 9	Writing Workshop	
Nov.14	Michael Nicol Yahgulanaas, <i>Red: A Haida Manga</i>	
Nov. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miriam Spiers, "Creating a Haida Manga: The Formline of Social Responsibility in <i>Red</i>" 	
Nov. 21	Background to refugee comics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Council for Refugees, "A Child's View of Detention in Canada" (web comic link on Nexus) 	
Nov. 23	Tings Chak, <i>Undocumented: The Architecture of Migrant Detention</i>	
Nov. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrie Dawson, "In Plain Sight: Documenting Immigration Detention in Canada" 	
Nov. 3	Wrap Up and Take Home Distribution (DUE DEC. 8)	RESEARCH ESSAY DUE

