**ENG 250 Graphic Novel**

**Prerequisites:** ENG110 or ENG 116

**Professor:** Fara Nizamani

**Contact:** fnizamani@digipen.edu; Phone: 425-629-5058

**Course Hours/Location:** Monday/Wednesday 3:00-4:20 Gibran

**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-2:00

Wednesday 11:00-1:00

If my posted office hours conflict with your schedule, please see me to set up an appointment.

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the study of graphic novels, a unique field of inquiry encompassing many world cultures and drawing on many disciplines. Students will read, discuss, and analyze many different types of novels, such as stand-alone, serial, and adaptative books.

**Course Objectives:** Upon satisfactory completion of the course requirements, the student should be able to:

· Understand the role of graphic novels in various cultures, literatures, and media

· Have a working knowledge of the historical development of the graphic novel

· Identify how the visual aspect of the graphic novel is used

·Gain an understanding of how to read, analyze, and explain the content of graphic novels

**Textbooks:**

*Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art* Scott McCloud. William Morrow Paperbacks (April 27, 1994) ISBN-13: 978-0060976255  
  
*A Contract with God.* Will Eisner, W. W. Norton & Company (December 17, 2006) ISBN-13: 978-0393328042  
  
*Maus: A Survivor’s Tale I: My Father Bleeds History*. Art Spiegelman; ISBN: 9780394747231

*Girl Genius Omnibus vol 1: Agatha Awakens.* Phil & Kaja Foglio. ISBN: 9780765331328

**We will supplement the required texts with additional readings, dependent upon availability. Please check Moodle regularly for postings.**

**Grades:**

Final grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

**Quizzes:** **25%.** Students can expect several unannounced quizzes during the course. Quizzes will cover class work and homework whether we have discussed homework material in class or not.

**Graphic Greats: 25%** You will write a paper on an important figure in the creation of graphic novels. Specifics such as word count, topic, etc. will be given later in the course. Hard copy + uploaded to Moodle by the due date.

**Project: 25%:** Your choice of either creating your own graphic novel or writing an extended essay analyzing a graphic novel of your choice. Specifics such as word count, topic, etc. will be given later in the course. Hard copy + uploaded to Moodle.

**Final Exam: 25%**

**Grading Policy:**

All work is due on the assigned date/time. No late work will be accepted unless I have given you explicit permission prior to the due date. For written essays, I will deduct 2 points for each grammar error.

**Late Policy and Attendance**

***DigiPen policy requires students to attend class****.* Prompt, regular attendance and class participation are serious responsibilities critical to the learning process, and attendance without preparation is of diminished value. Many things that are not included on the syllabus are discussed in class and may be included on quizzes.

· It is DigiPen policy that sign-in sheets will be distributed at the beginning of each class session and collected within the first 15 minutes. If these sheets are not signed during this time, the student will be counted absent.

· *Unexcused absences* ***will*** *affect your final grade. I will deduct 5% from your final grade for* ***each*** *unexcused absence*.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this course. Cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or any other form of academic dishonesty (including doing someone else’s individual assignments) will result in, at the extreme minimum, a zero on the assignment in question, and could result in a failing grade in the course or even expulsion from DigiPen.

**Disabled Student Services:**

Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities that affect their ability to perform major life activities associated with this class may be eligible for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability please contact the Disability Support Services office to arrange for accommodations for this class.

**Daily Schedule & Changes in the Syllabus:**

In order to achieve an optimal learning environment, especially in classes where learners have very diverse needs, it is sometimes necessary to make changes in the teaching plan. If such changes are deemed necessary, the instructor will announce them within a reasonable time frame. Students will be held responsible for knowing about changes made in their absence.

Week 1: Introduction

Kadinsky's “On the Problem of Form” essay

Definition of graphic novel

History of graphic novel

Week 2: **No class Monday. MLK Day**

*Harlot's Progress* and *Rake's Progress*

History of graphic novel

Subject matter – is anything off limits?

Week 3: McCloud – Ch. 1 “Setting the Record Straight” and Ch. 2 “The Vocabulary of Comics”

“*Week of Kindness”*  
 *Contract with God*

“Sequential Sketches of Ethnic Identity: Will Eisner's *A Contract with God* as Graphic Cycle”

**Graphic Greats paper due by end of class Wednesday hard copy and Moodle.**

Week 4: McCloud – Ch. 3 “Blood in the Gutter” and Ch. 4 “Time Frames”

*Contract with God*

“*Levitz Paradigm”*

Graphic novel and historical truth

Week 5: McCloud – Ch. 5 “Living in Line” and Ch. 6 “Show and Tell”

*Maus 1: My Father Bleeds History*

Graphic novel and historical truth

Week 6: McCloud – Ch. 7 “The Six Steps”

*Maus 1: My Father Bleeds History*

Graphic novel and relationships

Week 7: McCloud Ch 8 “A Word About Color”

Graphic novel and adaptations of written text.

Week 8: Spring Break!!!!!

Week 9: Poetry in graphic form

*McCloud – Ch. 9 “Putting It All Together”*

*Anya's Ghost (tent)*

Week 10: *Anya's Ghost (tent)*

Graphic novel and speculative fiction

Cohn - “Comics, Linguistics, and Visual Language”

Week 11: “Comics, Rhetorical Style, and Arrangement”

Graphic novel and speculative fiction

*Watchmen*

**Project due Wednesday by end of class hard copy and Moodle**

Week 12: Graphic novel and video

Graphic novel and modern social/cultural experience

*League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*

Week 13: *American Born Chinese (tent)*

Graphic novel and modern social/cultural experience

Week 14: *Girl Genius Omnibus vol 1: Agatha Awakens* (tent)

Webcomics & serialization

Week 15: *Girl Genius Omnibus vol 1: Agatha Awakens* (tent)

Webcomics & serialization

Week 16: Final Exam – take home