

COURSE SYLLABUS

ENG490: Comics as Literature

Course Description

Students will investigate and analyze the various genres within sequential art. In-class and outside readings will assist students in understanding the connection between graphic storytelling, contemporary society, and world literature. This course will stress the importance of visual literacy and critical thinking as it applies to narration and storytelling. Topics covered will include memoir, literary fiction, superheroes, social commentaries, and web comics.

General Course Information

Number of Units/Weeks	4/10
#Hours Lecture/#Hours Laboratory/#Hours ELPs*	40/0/80
Prerequisite(s)	ENG 110
Co-requisites (s)	None
Course Developer(s)	Danielle Peloquin, MS
Date Approved / Last Review	April 2015

*Enhanced Learning Projects

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze narrative structure and graphic storytelling in comic books.
- Identify the distinguishing traits in genres and archetypes.
- Critique societal issues using comic books and sequential art.
- Defend the role of comics in literature and culture.

Instructional Methods Employed in this Course

- Lecture and reading assignments
- Hands-on exercises and library activities
- Research
- Student presentations
- Build on prior knowledge and experience of students to enhance richness of class activities

Information Resources for this Course

Textbook

Bechdel, A. (2006). *Fun home: A family tragicomic*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 978-0618871711

Busiek, K., & Ross, A. (2009). *Marvels* (2nd ed.). New York, New York: Marvel Pub. ISBN: 978-0785142867

Carroll, E. (2014). *Through the woods*. New York, New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN: 978-1442465954

DeConnick, K., & Rios, E. (2014). *Pretty Deadly* (Vol. 1). Berkeley, California: Image Comics. ISBN: 978-1607069621

Eisner, W., & Eisner, W. (2008). *Comics and sequential art: Principles and practices from the legendary cartoonist*. New York, New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393331264

Ellis, G., & Stevenson, N. (2015). *Lumberjanes* (Vol. 1). Los Angeles, California: Bomo Studios. ISBN: 978-1608866878

Gillen, K. (2014). *The wicked the divine: The Faust act* (Vol. 1). Berkeley, California: Image Comics. ISBN: 978-1632150196

Igarashi, D., & Macasocol, J. (2009). *Children of the sea* (Vol. 1). San Francisco, California: Viz Media. ISBN: 978-1421529141

Seth. (2007). *It's a good life, if you don't weaken: A picture novella* (4th ed.). Montreal, Quebec: Drawn & Quarterly. ISBN: 978-1896597706

Loeb, J., & Lee, J. (2009). *Hush*. New York, New York: DC Comics. ISBN: 978-1401223175

McGuire, R. (2014). *Here*. New York, New York: Pantheon. ISBN: 978-0375406508

Sacasa, R., & Francavilla, F. (2014). *Afterlife with Archie: Escape from Riverdale* (Vol. 1). Mamaroneck, New York: Archie Comics. ISBN: 978-1619889088

Siegel, M. (2012). *Sailor Twain: Or, The mermaid in the Hudson*. New York, New York: First Second. ISBN: 978-1596436367

Vaughan, B., & Staples, F. (2013). *Saga* (Vol. 1). Berkeley, California: Image Comics. ISBN: 978-1607066019

Yang, G., & Pien, L. (2008). *American born Chinese*. New York, New York: Square Fish. ISBN: 978-0312384487

Yoshinaga, F., & Ller, A. (2009). *Ōoku the Inner Chambers*. (Vol. 1). San Francisco, California: Viz Media. ISBN: 978-1421527475

Other Resources

Iron Man [Motion picture on DVD]. (2008). United States: Buena Vista Home Entertainment.

Kelly, W. (2011). *Pogo: The complete syndicated comic strips* (Vol. 3). Seattle, Washington: Fantagraphics Books. ISBN: 978-1606996942

Montana, B., & Mullaney, D. (2014). *Archie: The swingin' sixties : Complete daily newspaper comics*. San Diego, California: IDW. ISBN: 978-1613779729

Petersen, D. (2010). *Mouse Guard: Legions of the guard* (Vol. 1). Los Angeles, California: Archaia Entertainment. ISBN: 978-1932386943

Schulz, C. (2014). *Peanuts every Sunday, 1956-1960*. Seattle, Washington: Fantagraphics. ISBN: 978-1606997949

Shanower, E., & Rodriguez, G. (2015). *Little Nemo Return to Slumberland*. (Vol. 1). San Diego, California: Idea & Design Works LLC. ISBN: 978-1631403224

Akira [Motion picture on DVD]. (2001). United States: Geneon Entertainment USA.

Ware, C. (2012). *Building stories*. New York, New York: Pantheon Books. ISBN: 978-0375424335

Table/Topics & Assignments

Types of Assignments:

Lecture -

Considered Lecture Hours

Classroom Discussion -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class Critique -

Considered Lecture Hours

Delivering Oral Presentations -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class (IC) Exercise -

Considered Lecture Hours

Reading -

Considered Enhanced Learning Project (ELP), work done outside of class

WebClass lesson (non-online courses) -
 Considered ELP, work done outside of class

Lab Work -
 Considered Lab Hours

Quiz, Midterm or Final -
 Considered Lecture Hours

Week 1						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 1A	Introduction to Course Materials	0.5	0	0	0	
Lecture 1B	How to Read Comics	2.5	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 1A	Analyzing Graphic Novels	0.75	0	0	0	
Lecture 1C	Midterm Research Paper	0.25	0	0	250	Week 5
ELP 1A	Read <i>Lumberjanes</i>	0	0	2	0	
ELP1B	Read <i>Comics & Sequential Art</i>	0	0	8	0	
ELP 1C	Midterm Research Paper	0	0	5	250	Week 5
Total Week 1		4	0	15	500	
Week 2						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
IC Ex. 2A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 2
Lecture 2B	All Ages: All Audiences	2	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 2B	Group Work: Read and Present All Ages Comics	1	0	0	0	
ELP 2A	Rough Draft Midterm Research Paper	0	0	4	30	Week 4
ELP 2B	Read <i>Marvels</i>	0	0	6	0	
ELP 2C	Read <i>Hush</i>	0	0	6	0	
Total Week 2		4	0	14	60	

Week 3						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 3A	Superheroes & Society	1	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 3A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 3
IC Ex. 3B	Watch <i>Iron Man I</i>	2	0	0	0	
ELP 3A	Read <i>Afterlife with Archie</i>	0	0	3	0	
ELP 3B	Read <i>Through the Woods</i>	0	0	3	0	
Total Week 3		4	0	6	30	
Week 4						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 4A	Genre Comics: Horror, Science Fiction, and War...Oh My!	2	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 4A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 4
IC Ex 4B	Group Work: Read and Present Genre Comics	1	0	0	0	
ELP 4A	Read <i>Fun Home</i>	0	0	4	0	
ELP 4B	Read <i>American Born Chinese</i>	0	0	4	0	
Total Week 4		4	0	8	30	
Week 5						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 5A	Study of the Self: Memoir & Autobiography	3	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 5A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 5
ELP 5A	Read <i>It's a Good Life If You Don't Weaken</i>	0	0	3	0	

ELP 5B	Read <i>Sailor Twain</i>	0	0	7	0	
ELP 5C	Final Research Paper & Presentation	0	0	5	350	Week 10
Total Week 5		4	0	15	380	
Week 6						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 6A	The Literary & The Learned	2	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 6A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 6
IC Ex. 6B	Group Work: Constructing Narrative in <i>Building Stories</i>	1	0	0	0	
ELP 6A	Read <i>The Wicked and the Divine</i>	0	0	2	0	
ELP 6C	Read <i>Saga</i>	0	0	3	0	
Total Week 6		4	0	5	0	
Week 7						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 7A	Society in Issues & Issues in Society	2	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 7A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 7
IC Ex. 7B	<i>Pogo</i> and Commentary Cartoons	1	0	0	0	
ELP 7A	Read <i>Ooku</i>	0	0	4	0	
ELP 7B	Read <i>Children of the Sea</i>	0	0	5	0	
Total Week 7		4	0	9	30	
Week 8						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 8A	Manga: The Japanese Counterpart?	1.5	0	0	0	

IC Ex. 8A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 8
Lecture 8B	Watch <i>Akira</i>	1.5	0	0	0	
ELP 8A	Read <i>Here</i>	0	0	3	0	
ELP 8B	Read <i>Pretty Deadly</i>	0	0	2	0	
Total Week 8		4	0	5	30	
Week 9						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 9A	Genre Busting: Breaking All the Rules	3	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 9A	Student-led discussion on readings	1	0	0	30	Week 9
ELP 9A	Read a webcomic of your choice	0	0	2.5	0	
ELP 9B	Prepare presentation on webcomic	0	0	0.5	30	Week 10
Total Week 9		4	0	3	60	
Week 10						
Type	Topic/Description	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time	Point Value	Due
Lecture 10A	Webcomics and the Future of the Comic Book	1	0	0	0	
IC Ex. 10A	Presentations of Webcomics	1.5	0	0	30	Week 10
IC Ex. 10B	Presentations of Final Papers	1.5	0	0	350	Week 10
Total Week 10		4	0	0	380	

Course Hours Summary

Week	Topic	Lec Time	Lab Time	ELP Time
1	Introduction to Course Material/How to Read Comics	4	0	15
2	All Ages, All Audiences	4	0	14
3	Superheroes & Society	4	0	6
4	Genre Comics: Horror, Science Fiction, and War ...Oh My!	4	0	8

5	Study of the Self: Memoir & Autobiography	4	0	15
6	The Literary and The Learned	4	0	5
7	Society in Issues & Issues in Society	4	0	9
8	Manga: The Japanese Counterpart?	4	0	5
9	Genre Busting: Breaking All the Rules	4	0	3
10	Webcomics and the Future of the Comic Book	4	0	0
Total		40	0	80

Table/Point Breakdown

Week	Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Grade
2	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
3	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
4	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
4	Rough Draft of Midterm Research Paper	30	3%
5	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
5	Midterm Research Paper	250	25%
6	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
7	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
8	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
9	Student-led discussion on readings	30	3%
10	Webcomics Presentation	30	3%
10	Final Research Paper & Presentation	350	35%
	Participation	100	10%
Total		1000	100%