

tl;dr Version of the Course Outline

Contemporary Media and Fiction | English 230 at UVic | ɫə́kʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Territories
Taught by Jentery Sayers (he / him) with Babak Ashrafxhani, teaching assistant

The point of this course is for you to gain media literacy skills pertinent to the practices of storytelling. You will have the opportunity to integrate audio, images, quotations, and even video into your writing about short fiction, comics, animations, dramatic podcasts, and video games.

You need to purchase only one book for this course: Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*. It's at the UVic Bookstore. Everything else is available online or in Brightspace.

We're asking you to complete only **four assignments** this term, each 25% of your final mark. You can **revise one** of your first three assignments to improve your grade, and you'll submit all work via Brightspace. This means there are no research papers, presentations, or discussion forums in this course. There are no exams, either.

- **Week 1 (Sept 7, 9):** Review the syllabus. Purchase *Fun Home*.
- **Week 2 (Sept 13, 14, 16):** Watch *THE MOOD OF THE MOMENT*. Review Prompt 1. Play *Secrets Agent*. No class on the 14th.
- **Week 3 (Sept 20, 21, 23):** Watch *Biidaaban*. Read "Message in a Bottle."
- **Week 4 (Sept 27, 28, 30):** Respond to Prompt 1 by the 27th. Learn more about a game or fiction mentioned during class. No class on the 30th.
- **Week 5 (Oct 4, 5, 7):** Listen to *Within the Wires*. Review Prompt 2.
- **Week 6 (Oct 11, 12, 14):** Play or watch *Gone Home*. Learn more about a game or fiction mentioned during class.
- **Week 7 (Oct 18, 19, 21):** Respond to Prompt 2 by the 18th. Read "Translated, From the Japanese."
- **Week 8 (Oct 25, 26, 28):** Read *Fun Home*. Review Prompt 3. Note that Monday, October 31st is the last day to withdraw from first term courses without penalty of failure.
- **Week 9 (Nov 1, 2, 4):** Respond to Prompt 3 by the 4th. Play or watch *Undertale*.
- **Week 10 (Nov 8, 9, 11):** No class this week.
- **Week 11 (Nov 15, 16, 18):** Check out *50 Years of Text Games*. Read / play *With Those We Love Alive*. Review the prompt for revisions.
- **Week 12 (Nov 22, 23, 25):** Play or watch *Celeste*. Review Prompt 4.
- **Week 13 (Nov 29, 30; Dec 2):** Share a game or fiction with the class. Complete course experience surveys. Optional: submit a revised response to Prompt 1, 2, or 3.
- **Exam Period (Dec 13):** Respond to Prompt 4 by the 13th.

Read the complete prompts in Brightspace and be sure to review the detailed [schedule](#) and the [policies](#) at some point, too. We suggest dedicating to this course 3 to 5 hours of study each week, plus 3 hours for weekly meetings (TWF). With your permission, we may record audio of our sessions and circulate it via Brightspace. You'll have the option to limit personal information shared in the recording. We will also provide you with detailed lecture notes in the form of an online Word doc available through Microsoft Office 365 at UVic.

The best way to communicate with me (Jentery) is by email (jentery@uvic.ca) or during office hours, which are Thursday, 12:30 - 2:30pm. I respond to email between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

This tl;dr is not intended to replace the [actual syllabus](#), which you should also read.