**DD 108**

**Visual Narrative**

**Meets**

**Office:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Course description:**

This course explores the techniques of visual storytelling through the analysis, critiquing and development of storyboards, graphic novels and comics with the purpose of further understanding the meaning and structure underlying all stories and time-based media.

Prerequisites: None

**Course objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will have learned:

Basic Story Structure:

* Inciting Incident
* Gap Widening Events
* Climax
* Resolution

The Basic Principles of Storytelling:

* Crisis Decision
* Risk = Motivation
* The Basic Elements of Comedy
* Types of Conflict
* Story Argument
* Status
* Set Up and Pay Off
* Subtext

How to Tell a Story Visually:

* Panels
* Framing
* Composition
* Lay Out
* Design
* Point of View

**Credit Hours:** 3 hours

**Pre-requisites:**

VPA 121: Painting and Drawing

**Suggested readings:**

* McKee, Robert. Story.

ISBN: 9780060391683

$17.25 at Amazon.com

**Expectations:**

While this class has not been designated as ‘web-enhanced,’ it is expected that students wishing to take full advantage of the class have:

* Familiarity with the Internet;
* Access to the Internet from home or elsewhere
* An active Hostos email account, which they check daily.

Student Services: Students with documented disabilities should contact Ms. Salazar (psalazar@hostos.cuny.edu) in the Savoy Building. Students wishing counseling for any reason should contact the Hostos Counseling Center (also in the Savoy Building) at 718/518-4319 (email: infocounseling@hostos.cuny.edu). Math tutoring is available at the Hostos Academic Learning Center (C-596), Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. through 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. Online tutoring is available at <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/halc/>.

Due dates:

Late assignments will get only partial credit.

Grading:

Visual Narrative Projects 90

Participation 10

Total 100

Grades:

95-100 A

90-94 A-

87-89 B+

84-86 B

80-83 B-

75-79 C+

70-75 C

60-69 D

0-60 F

**Visual Narrative (VN) Assignments:**

This is a studio course involving a combination of lecture, project activities, and discussion of assigned readings. Staying on top of the reading assignments is essential in order to be informed and make contributions during in-class discussions and activities. These readings will reference and introduce concepts and vocabulary that may at times be unfamiliar and so require students to do independent research. This will be expected.

20% of the grade will be based on engagement and consistent attendance. The balance of the grade will be determined by several projects undertaken over the 15 week course.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Assignment | Type | Points |
| P1 | Fear comic thumbnails | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P2 | Fear comic | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P3 | Crisis Comic essay/recording | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P4 | One Panel Joke | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P5 | Superhero Comic storyboard | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P6 | Superhero Comic storyboard revised | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P7 | Ghost Comic thumbnails | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P8 | Ghost Comic | Take-home / in class | 5 |
| P9 | Step Outline for Graphic Short | Take-home / in class | 10 |
| P10 | Thumbnails for Graphic Short | Take-home / in class | 10 |
| P11 | Rough Storyboard for Graphic Short | Take-home / in class | 10 |
| P12 | Final Storyboard for Graphic Short |  | 10 |
|  | Total |  | 80 |

Notes on the grading criteria:

Work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

* Understanding and interpretation of readings
* Research and Analysis of related issues
* Contribution to in-class discussion

**The assignments:**

What follows are brief descriptions of the course assignments students will be doing over the course of the term. Detailed instructions will be provided in-class. Without a physician or counselor’s note, late assignments will not be accepted and so will receive a grade of 0.

**Fear Comic**

Create a comic that describes your worst fear. In this assignment, you will be introduced to visual narration devices.

**Crisis essay/recording**

Create an essay or recording that explores the revelation of character through an autobiographical event.

**One Panel Joke**

Create a one-panel joke that you would see in a Sunday paper like Gary Larson's The Far Side.

**Superhero Comic**

Explore inner, personal and extra-personal conflict by creating a superhero comic.

**Ghost comic**

Explore set up and pay off by making a comic with a spooky story

**Graphic Short**

Make your own graphic short that explores story structure and the principles of storytelling explored over the semester. This assignment will be broken up into stages and will be worked on at home and in class.

**Participation:**

A student’s participation grade is based primarily on their attendance and participation in class. Every student begins the term with 10 participation points. Attendance is mandatory for every single scheduled class. For each class missed, 3 participation points will be deducted. Tardy students will have 1 participation points deducted. More than three absences amounts to a failure, as a student may not earn less than 0 participation points.

**Academic policies (from Catalogue):**

Hostos Community College believes that developing student's abilities to think through issues and problems by themselves is central to the educational process. Since the Hostos College degree signifies that the student knows the material s/he has studied, and the practice of academic dishonesty results in grades or scores that do not reflect how much or how well the student has learned, understood, or mastered the material, the College will investigate any form of academic dishonesty brought to its attention. If the charge of academic dishonesty is proved, the College will impose sanctions. The three most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating, plagiarism, and bribery.

**Cheating (from Catalogue):**

In the collegiate setting, cheating is defined as the purposeful misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. Faculty and students alike are responsible for upholding the integrity of this institution by not participating either directly or indirectly in act of cheating and by discouraging others from doing so.

**Plagiarism (from Catalogue):**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which occurs when persons, even if unintentionally, fail to acknowledge appropriately the sources for the ideas, language, concepts, inventions, etc. referred to in their own work. Thus, any attempt to claim another's intellectual or artistic work as one's own constitutes an act of plagiarism.

**Bribery (from Catalogue):**

In the collegiate setting, bribery involves the offering, promising, or giving of items of value, such as money or gifts, to a person in a position of authority, such as a teacher, administrator, or staff member, so as to influence his/her judgment or conduct in favor of the student. The offering of sexual favors in exchange for a grade, test score, or other academic favor, shall be considered attempted bribery. The matter of sexual favors, either requested or offered, in exchange for a grade, test score or other academic favor, shall also be handled as per the Sexual Harassment procedures of the College.

College attendance policy (from Catalogue):

Students are expected to attend all class meetings in the courses for which they are registered. Classes begin at the times indicated in the official schedule of classes. Arrival in class after the scheduled starting time constitutes lateness.

The maximum number of absences is limited to 15% of the number of scheduled class hours per semester and a student absent more than the indicated 15% is deemed excessively absent. Attendance is monitored from the first official day of classes. In the case of excessive absences or lateness, the instructor has the right to lower the grade, assign a failing grade, or assign additional written work or readings.

Absences due to late registration, change of program, or extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the instructor. Each department and program may specify in writing a different attendance policy. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance and inform each class of the College's or department attendance policy.

**NOTE:**

* Any work missed during any period of absence must be made up by the student.
* To meet financial aid criteria, a student must attend class at least once in the first three weeks and once in either the fourth or fifth week of class.

**Course schedule:**

Readings must be completed for each class. Not all assigned texts will be discussed in class or covered in the class lectures.

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| Week &  Class | Project Due | ROOM | TOPIC |
| 1 |  |  | Principles of Story Telling |
| 2 | P1 |  | Principles of Story Telling |
| 3 | P2 |  | Principles of Story Telling |
| 4 | P3 |  | Crisis Decision |
| 5 | P4 |  | Crisis Decision |
| 6 | P5 |  | Types of Conflict |
| 7 | P6 |  | Types of Conflict |
| 8 | P7 |  | Set Up and Pay Off |
| 9 | P8 |  | Set Up and Pay Off  &  Step Outlines |
| 10 | P9 |  | Storyboard Critiquing |
| 11 | P10 |  | Storyboard Critiquing |
| 12 | P11 |  | Storyboard Critiquing |
| 13 |  |  | Storyboard Critiquing |
| 14 |  |  | Storyboard Critiquing |
| 15  Finals Week | P12 |  | Final Presentations |