

Last Revised: September 2020

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Graphic Novel

Course Number: ENGL 245

Credits: 3

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring)
12 (Summer)

Total Hours: 39

Course Level: First Year Second Year
 New Revised Course
 Replacement Course

Department: English

Department Head: B. Lord

Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable): N/A

Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE):

ENGL 101 and successful completion of ENGL 111, ENGL 121, or ENGL 103 with a minimum grade of C-.

Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE): NONE

Precluded Courses: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of graphic narrative (graphic novels and comic books) as literature. Though once dismissed a childish or “junk”, these narratives are gaining mainstream popularity and acceptance as legitimate forms of art/storytelling worthy of critical consideration. Throughout the course, students will examine the interplay in these works between literature, comics, and art. What do these narratives ask us to consider about the ways that meaning is both communicated and constructed? What do they tell us about the representation and construction of reality and “truth”? How are text and visual codes used in these narratives to examine the relationship between individuals and their broader social environment? How do contemporary creators of graphic narratives respond to the traditional view of comics as “junk culture”? What can comics and graphic novels tell us about the relationship between popular culture and literary studies?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Discuss and evaluate various techniques, rhetorical devices, and visual codes used in graphic narratives and sequential art.
- Understand how ideology is expressed in various course texts.
- Understand the social, political, and cultural contexts that inform course texts.
- Discuss how graphic narrative has evolved though the early twentieth century to the present day.
- Formulate a clear, thoughtful, and complex research paper based on one (or more) of the course texts that demonstrates critical thought.
- Evaluate the extent to which different graphic narratives do/do not conform to traditional literary conventions of storytelling and narrative

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades Percentage Pass/Fail Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Other

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 10% <i>Close reading</i>	Lab Work: %	Participation: 10% <i>Attendance and Participation</i>	Project: 25% <i>Research Paper</i>
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 25%	Final Exam: 30%	Other: %

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*
 G. Willow Wilson, *Ms. Marvel: No Normal*
 Grant Morrison, *Flex Mentallo*
 Eric Drooker, *Flood!*
 Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*
 Additional readings will be posted on C4.

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction and History of Graphic Narrative
Week 2	How to Read Graphic Novels
Week 3	Superheroes: Early Super Heroes
Week 4	Superheroes: Not Just for Kids

Week 5	Superheroes: Responding to the Tradition
Week 6	Superheroes: Narrative Voice and Creating Realities
Week 7	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8	Intertextuality: Graphic Novels and the Literary Cannon
Week 9	Intertextuality: Graphic Novels and Plastic Arts
Week 10	Just the Pictures: Sequential Art as Stand-Alone Storytelling
Week 11	Graphic Memoir
Week 12	Graphic Memoir
Week 13	Final Exam Review
Week 14	FINAL EXAM

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: bctransferguide.ca