



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2013

EN 4103G A3 (THE Graphic Novel) 3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: George Hanna

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 10:30 am – 12 Noon and Wednesdays 1:30 – 3 pm

Office hours are either as posted or by appointment; posted hours are subject to change. If you have classes during my regular office hours, contact me to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

PREREQUISITE(S)/ COREQUISITE: Six credits of first year English

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1. Conor McCreery, Anthony Del Col and Andy Belanger. *Kill Shakespeare, Volume I: A Sea of Troubles*. Diamond Book Distribution. November 2010.
2. Joe Sacco. *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95* (2000). Turtleback Books (January 2002)
3. Art Spiegelman. *Maus, A Survivor's Tale*. Two-Volume Boxed Set. New York: Pantheon, 1993. [Winner, 1992 Pulitzer Prize]. Volume 1, *My Father Bleeds History* (1986). Volume 2, *And Here My Troubles Began* (1991).
4. Amir and Khalil. *Zahra's Paradise*. Hardcover. Written by Amir. Artwork by Khalil. First Second Books: New York, 2011.
5. Guy Delisle. *Burma Chronicles*. Drawn and Quarterly (Sep 10 2008).
6. Richard Poplak, Jason Gilmore and Nick Marinkovich. *Kenk, A Graphic Portrait*. Toronto: Pop Sandbox, 2010.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: A variable-content seminar course on specific literary themes or genres such as the Faust figure, the motif of survival in Canadian literature, the frontier as a recurrent idea in American literature, comedy, tragedy, Romanticism, Neoclassicism, and writing by women. Students may take different-genre, different-theme versions of this course.

EXTENDED COURSE DESCRIPTION:

EN 4103 (3) Literary Genres Series—The Graphic Novel—Winter 2013

This term, the variable-content EN 4103 will focus on the transformation of “comics” or cartoons into “graphic novels,” a genre that treats serious issues, embracing works as diverse as war documentaries, histories, journalism and memoirs. Text and elaborate drawings work together to create a new art form, one that represents popular culture at its best. Not surprisingly, graphic novels now receive critical attention from scholars in all the leading academic institutions. What happened? In the words of Scott McCloud, “Comics. Got. Better” (*Understanding Comics*).

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: EN 4103G A2 consists of three hours of instructional time per week.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures, seminar participation, oral presentations and group work.

OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of 4103G A3 is to improve writing, oral communication skills, critical thinking and knowledge of graphic novels. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Grasp the delicate interplay between text and drawings in graphic art;
- Research, plan, compose, edit, and document coherent academic papers;
- Think more critically about graphic literature, culture, media and related arts;
- Participate in one oral presentation.

TRANSFERABILITY:

* For a complete list of letter grades, along with relevant descriptions, ***read very carefully*** the section on **Grading Systems** in the online 2012-13 GPRC Calendar:

http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Grading_Policy.pdf

Transfers To: University of Alberta*
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Athabasca University*
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta
Concordia University College
Concordia University College
King's University College

**** An asterisk (*) beside any transfer institution indicates important transfer information. Consult the Alberta Transfer Guide.***

* A Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability—particularly since all transfer arrangements are subject to change.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Grande Prairie Regional College uses the alpha grading system and the following approved letter codes for all programs and courses offered by the College. All final grades will be reported to the Registrar's Office using alpha grades. Alpha grades will be converted to four-point equivalence for the calculation of grade point averages.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	83 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 82	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	72 – 75	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	69 – 71	
C ⁺	2.3	66 – 68	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 65	
C ⁻	1.7	59 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 58	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Brief Take-Home Essay	10%
First Major Paper	20%
Second Major Paper	30%
Group Oral Presentation	20%
Quiz	10%
Oral Participation	10%
Total	100%

EXAMINATIONS: There is **no final exam** in this course.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- A brief Take-Home writing assignment will be distributed **January 16**.
Minimum length: 500 words (about 2 typed pages).
Weighting: **10%** of the course grade. Due January 23.
- 1st Major Essay Due February 27: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)
- 2nd Major Essay Due April 3: Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)
- Group Oral Presentations: Weighting **20%** [5-6 students per group, according to interest and class size]. **Date:** Due April 3.
- Quiz: Weighting: **10%** of the course grade—April 10.
- Oral Participation—Weighting: **10%** of the course grade. **Weekly.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

All assignments must be word-processed or typewritten. It is particularly important to save a copy of any written work handed in for credit or grading. Equally important, students must submit a **hard (printed) copy** *and* also send the instructor a **digital copy** as an email attachment.

1. Essays are due ***in both printed and digital format*** on the dates indicated.

- Students who submit essays after the deadline are normally penalized at the rate of one Alpha letter grade per calendar day.
- However, any student experiencing difficulty meeting an essay deadline should contact the instructor to determine if there are reasonable grounds for granting an extension.
- Essays submitted more than one week late may not be accepted.

2. Extensions are *always* granted in cases of sickness, providing the student can produce a note from a doctor.

3. *Subject to time constraints*, rewrites are allowed on *the short take-home paper* and the *first major* essay assignment. Staple or paper clip the graded essay (showing the original grade and the instructor's comments) to the back of the rewritten paper and follow other instructions as provided.
4. Regular attendance is critical to success in EN 4103G. Should a student miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the material missed and to complete the assigned readings outside of class.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Please refer to the online 2012-13 GPRC Calendar—

http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf

—regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely. Keep in mind that your instructor employs electronic plagiarism detection services.

ATTENDANCE

Excessive absenteeism—defined as **two or more unexcused absences** per term—may adversely affect your grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
January 9, 2013	Course Outline Overview of Course	
January 16	<i>Kill Shakespeare, Volume I: A Sea of Troubles</i>	
January 23	<i>Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95</i>	Short Paper Due January 23
January 30	<i>Safe Area Gorazde</i>	
February 6	<i>Maus, A Survivor's Tale.</i>	

	<i>Volume 1, My Father Bleeds History</i>	
February 13	<i>Maus, Volume I1, And Here My Troubles Began</i>	
February 27	<i>Zahra's Paradise</i>	1st Major Paper Due February 27
March 6	<i>Zahra's Paradise</i>	
March 13	<i>Kenk, A Graphic Portrait</i>	
March 20	<i>Kenk, A Graphic Portrait</i>	
March 27	<i>Burma Chronicles</i>	2nd Major Paper Due April 3
April 3	Group Oral Presentations	
April 10	<i>Burma Chronicles</i>	End of Course