



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2015

EN4103G (A3): THE Graphic Novel - 3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: George Hanna

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. / Wed. 3 – 4:30 pm—or alternate times by appointment

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

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1. John Wagner. *A History of Violence*. New York: Vertigo, 1998.
2. 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).
3. Joe Sacco. *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95* (2000). Turtleback Books (January 2002)
4. Rutu Modan. *Exit Wounds*. Montreal: Drawn and Quarterly, 2007.
5. Guy Delisle. *Jerusalem, Chronicles from the Holy City*. Drawn and Quarterly Montreal, 2012.
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

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: 3 credits / 3 hours 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:

AU, UA, UC, UL, Concordia UC, King’s UC

* For a complete list of letter grades, along with relevant descriptions, ***read very carefully*** the section on **Grading Systems** in the online 2014-15 GPRC Calendar:

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/viewcatalog.7.160.1313.html>

* 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.

- Grades will be assigned on the Letter Grading System.
- The **Final Exam** will be scheduled by Student Services during the official exam period, April 16-27.* **Do NOT book travel, work or other activities during the college-wide exam period, as you will not be allowed to write an early or deferred exam.**

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

EVALUATION:

Brief Take-Home Essay	10%
First Major Paper	20%
Second Major Paper	20%
Group Oral Presentations	10%
Regular Oral Participation + In-class Group Work (Dates TBA)	10%
Final Exam*	30%
TOTAL	100%

*Exam TBA, exact date/time to be determined by Student Services, April 16-27.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- A brief writing assignment will be distributed Thurs., **January 15**.
Minimum length: 500-650 words (about 2 or 3 typed pages).
Weighting: **10%** of the course grade. Due Thurs., January 22.
- 1st Major Essay Due Thurs., February 26: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)
- 2nd Major Essay Due Thurs., March 26: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)
- Group Oral Presentations: Weighting **10%** [7-8 students per group]. **Date[s]:***
Tues., April 7
Thurs, April 9
- Regular Oral Participation + In-class Group Work (Dates TBA)—Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.

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 2014-15 GPRC Calendar—

https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_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 6, 2015	Course Outline Overview of Course	
January 8-13-15	Why Graphic Novels? John Wagner, <i>A History of Violence</i> David Cronenberg's Film Adaptation of A	

	<i>History of Violence</i> (2005), 96 mins.	
January 20-22	<i>Maus, A Survivor's Tale.</i> Volume 1, <i>My Father Bleeds History</i>	Short Paper Due Thurs., January 22
January 27-29	<i>Maus, Volume II, And Here My Troubles Began</i>	
February 3-5-10-12	<i>Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95</i>	Winter Break: No Classes Feb. 16-20
February 24-26 March 3-5	<i>Exit Wounds</i>	1st Major Paper Due Thurs., February 26
March 10-12-17-19	<i>Jerusalem, Chronicles from the Holy City</i>	
March 24-26-31-April 2	<i>Kenk, A Graphic Portrait</i>	2nd Major Paper Due Thurs., March 26
April 7-9	Group Oral Presentations	
April 14	Study Tips for Final Exam	
April 16-27	Final Exam*	

*To be scheduled by Student Services during college-wide exam period, April 16-27.