



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

EN4103G (A3): Literary Genres Series (The Graphic Novel) - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: George Hanna

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 11:30 – 1 pm / Wed. 3 – 4:30 pm—or alternate times by appointment.

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.

This term, the variable-content EN 4103G will focus on six graphic novels that illustrate the breadth and scope of this important new genre.

***An extended course description is at the end of this document.**

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

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1. Marjane Satrapi. *Persepolis, The Story of a Childhood*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2003.
2. Craig Thompson. *Blankets*. Montreal. Drawn & Quarterly, 2003, 2015.
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. Joe Sacco. *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95* (2000). Turtleback Books (January 2002).
5. Richard Poplak, Jason Gilmore and Nick Marinkovich. *Kenk, A Graphic Portrait*. Toronto: Pop Sandbox, 2010.

6. Guy Delisle. *Jerusalem, Chronicles from the Holy City*. Drawn and Quarterly Montreal, 2012.

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

EN 4103G has been designed to improve students' knowledge of graphic novels, with a close study of representative works that represent the range and diversity of this relatively new genre. To this end, students will discover the many points of intersection between the artwork, text, layout and texture of six different books.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- grasp the delicate interplay between text and drawings in graphic art;
- recognize the tendency of graphic novelists to employ quasi-cinematic techniques to improve narrative flow, coherence or momentum;
- grasp the importance of panels, borderless panels, bleeds and variations in panel construction;
- understand the function of *emanata* such as teardrops, sweat drops, question marks, or motion lines drawn beside characters' faces;
- realize why the graphic writer alternately places figures in the foreground, mid-ground or background;
- think more critically about graphic literature, culture, media and related arts;
- acquire an overview of critical approaches to graphic novels;
- Work cooperatively and participate actively in small-group discussions
- research, plan, compose, edit, and document coherent academic papers.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA*, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, BU, GMU, KUC

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities**. Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** 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**

EVALUATIONS:

Short Take-Home Paper	10%
First Major Paper	20%
Second Major Paper	20%
Task Force Group Investigations	10%
Individual Oral Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

* The final exam will be scheduled during the official exam period, April 17-27, 2017. As you will not be allowed to write an early or deferred exam, do **not** book travel, work or other activities during the college-wide exam period.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- Short Paper—Topics for a brief writing assignment will be distributed Thurs., January 12.

Minimum length: 500-600 words (about 2 typed pages).

Weighting: **10%** of the course grade. Due Tues., January 24.

- 1st Major Essay Due Tues., February 14: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade. 2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)

- 2nd Major Essay Due Thurs., March 23: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade. 2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)

- In-Class Group Assignments—Weighting: **10%**—with a cumulative grade assigned at the end of the course.
- Individual Oral Participation— Weighting: **10%**—with a cumulative grade assigned at the end of the course.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point	Percentage		Alpha	4-point	Percentage
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	Equivalent	Guidelines		Grade	Equivalent	Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	66-68
A	4.0	83-89		C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	80-82		C-	1.7	59-62
B+	3.3	76-79		D+	1.3	55-58
B	3.0	72-75		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	69-71		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
January 5, 2017	Course Outline Overview of Course— Why Read Graphic Novels?	
January 10-12-17-19	Marjane Satrapi, <i>Persepolis, The Story of a Childhood</i> Film Adaptation of <i>Persepolis</i> Short Paper Due Tues., January 24	
January 24-26-31-February 2	<i>Blankets</i>	
February 7-9-14-16	<i>Maus, A Survivor's Tale.</i> Volume 1, <i>My Father Bleeds History</i>	Winter Break: No Classes Feb. 16-20
	<i>Maus, Volume II, And Here My Troubles Began</i>	1st Major Paper Due Tues., February 14
February 28- March 2-7-9	<i>Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-95</i>	
March 14-16-21-23	<i>Kenk, A Graphic Portrait</i>	2nd Major Paper Due

		Thurs., March 23
March 28-30--April 4-6	<i>Jerusalem, Chronicles from the Holy City</i>	
April 11	Study Tips for Final Exam	
April 17-27	Final Exam*	

*To be scheduled by Student Services during college-wide exam period, April 17-27.

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. 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.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Rules of Engagement are as follows:

- No texting during lectures or class discussions.
- No listening to iPhones, iPods or other personal electronic devices.
- No engaging in side conversations while the instructor or other students are speaking.
- No arriving late.

ATTENDANCE

Excessive absenteeism—defined as **three or more unexcused absences** per term—may adversely affect your grade. Students with three or more unexcused absences may be debarred from writing the Final Exam.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

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*).