

Effective Semester: Summer 2024

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 one of ENGL 103, ENGL 111 or ENGL 121

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 as 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:

- Evaluate various techniques, rhetorical devices, and visual codes used in graphic narratives and sequential art through close reading.
- Accurately identify how ideology is expressed in various course texts and provide evidence to support your conclusions
- Demonstrate an accurate understanding of the social, political, and cultural contexts that inform course texts through written and verbal responses.
- Determine 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.

Can't We Talk About Something, Roz Chast (hard copy required)

The Rider Waite Tarot (if your student number is EVEN)

The Thoth Tarot (if your student number is ODD)

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

Last Reviewed: June 2024

Last Revised: June 2024