

LIT 4305 SECT. 6465
COMICS & ANIMATION
MWF 7-8 4354 TURLINGTON
FALL 2013

Donald Ault

(Preferred) donault@gmail.com, ault@ufl.edu

Office Hours MWF 12-1 p.m. and by appointment, 4354 Turlington

Text: Course pack available at Xerographic Copy Center: 927 NW 13th St (352) 375-0797 (by Applebee's)

This course will focus on a highly selective history and analysis of comic strips, comic books, and animated cartoons in ways that should be both enjoyable and conceptually and compositionally rigorous. There are several analytical essays that you will be responsible for reading and responding to in writing. The course will emphasize U.S. productions, especially during the first half of the twentieth century, with special emphasis on path-breaking artists and studios, original versions of comics characters and animation. There will be several non-American productions, especially avant garde works. The course will address the different narrative possibilities and limitations available to artists producing comics and animation.

I expect you to assume considerable responsibility for making this course work for you. I will not spoon feed you instructions about exactly what you should do to get a "good grade." I am fully aware that grades are extremely important. I do not take grades lightly, but the primary focus of your work should be your own intellectual development and production. There will be considerable course "content," much of which may seem difficult, but I hope it will be exciting once you engage it with imaginative and intellectual honesty and power. This course should be approached as being fundamentally about your coming to terms with your own individual productivity in a creative, spontaneous, and often unpredictable academic context. Your essays must demonstrate your analytical ability, your creativity, and your powers of argumentation. The emphasis at all times will be on originality and imaginative insight combined with precision and conciseness of thought and writing. NOTE: Although class lectures and discussions may often seem informal, even digressive, you should expect that I will be carefully considering minute elements of style, argument, and technical competence in your written exercises.

The class will meet three days a week, two consecutive periods each day, which will provide a time format that will allow screening cartoons and other digital projections and discussing them the same day they are screened. Since screenings and their accompanying discussions are fleeting, regular class attendance is in your best interest. In addition, since I hope to conduct the course as much as possible as a discussion course, the success of the course will depend on classroom interaction. Therefore, **PRODUCTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION CAN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT YOUR GRADE.** Further note regarding attendance: More than six (6) unexcused absences WILL lower your grade (for example, from a B- to a C+); and if your grade is on a borderline, excellent or poor attendance or arriving late and/or leaving early can tip your grade in one direction or the other. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

Requirements: There will be two out-of-class written exercises (5-7 pages each), due on the dates in the Revised Reading Schedule and announced in class, and a final paper or project due on the last day of class. **All assignments are due on the scheduled dates. NO EXCEPTIONS EXCEPT FOR EXTRAORDINARY DOCUMENTED CIRCUMSTANCES.** Write your papers **early** to avoid last-minute "emergencies." **In addition, there may be short in-class exercises. Your submitted work must NOT be some version of a "research paper."** Making use of **INTERPRETATIONS** from outside sources such as the Internet for your writing assignments is **unacceptable** in this course. Texts such as *The Oxford English Dictionary* are acceptable. All **information** from Internet and other outside sources **MUST be cited** (URL, etc). If you have any questions regarding this rule, check with me. If you don't understand what is expected in an assignment, talk with me in my office about it **BEFORE** you submit your essay. Do not wait until the last day before the paper is due to talk to me about the assignment. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/iinfo/student-honor-code.aspx>

I prefer that essays and projects be submitted in paper format. However, I will accept papers sent to my gmail account in either of the following formats **ONLY: *.doc or *.rtf (NOT *.docx)**, and **PDF's** are OK (for images only). Do not assume that I have received your paper if you send it electronically.

Reading Assignments: *You will be responsible for reading almost all of the material in the course pack, but not necessarily in the order that it appears. For the first week: read the first four essays in the course pack.*