

Time: R 3-5 → Thursdays 9:35am-12:35pm

Place: TUR 4112

Instructor Name: Dr. Margaret Galvan

Email: margaretgalvan@ufl.edu

Office: TUR 4348

Office Hours: Wed., 12-2pm, Thurs., 1-2pm; email to make appt.

Canvas Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Course Website: <https://lit6856spring2020.home.blog/>

Course Description:

In the past several years, there's been a surge in publishing of queer comics—that is, “comic books, strips, graphic novels, and webcomics that deal with LGBTQ themes from an insider’s perspective,” as cartoonist Justin Hall puts it. These contemporary works are part of a genealogy that stretches over four decades, reaching back before the Stonewall Riots in 1969 that catalyzed the modern LGBTQ movement. This course will introduce students to this rich and often overlooked history of queer comics in America from the 1960s through the present. We will consider how these works represented various identities and current events over time and how and where these comics were published and circulated.

While this course will focus on understanding comics through queer, trans, feminist, gender, and sexuality studies approaches, students will receive a grounding in the field of comics studies, as well. This course will also be useful for students with an interest in contemporary American literature, cultural studies, marginalized histories and creators, book history, grassroots publishing, memoir studies, visual and popular cultures, etc. Scaffolded professionalization activities and digital approaches to scholarship will accompany the completion of a seminar paper.

Books to Purchase:

- Magdalene Visaggio & Eva Cabrera, et al., *Kim & Kim Volume 1: This Glamorous, High-Flying Rock Star Life* (2017), Black Mask Comics, ISBN: 1628751606
- Tee Franklin & Jenn St. Onge, et al., *Bingo Love Volume 1* (2018), Image Comics, ISBN: 1534307508
- Maia Kobabe, *Gender Queer: A Memoir* (2019), Lion Forge, ISBN: 1549304003
- Mariko Tamaki and Rosemary Valero-O'Connell, *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me* (2019), First Second, ISBN: 1626722595
- Archie Bongiovanni, *Grease Bats* (2019), BOOM! Box, ISBN: 1684154111

Assignments & Grading:

- **Introduction Post (10%, due Week 2):** You will publish a post of roughly 500 words on the course website at least one day in advance of our meeting in Week 2 that introduces your academic interests, connects them to the subject matter of the course, and identifies your goals. You will incorporate and respond to at least one of the assigned journal articles for Week 1 and craft one question for discussion. You'll publish your post on the course website at least one day in advance by 7pm of our Week 2 meeting.
- **Digital Posts + Discussion Questions (20%, due Weeks 4-15):** You will publish two digital posts of roughly 500 words each on the course website throughout the semester. In these posts, you will locate a relevant peer-reviewed scholarly essay and summarize it,

connecting its claims to the assigned comic. You will create three discussion questions for related passages in the main comic. To receive credit, you must be present to help lead discussion on the days you select. You'll announce your article selection at the class before you present, make a PDF of the article available to the class, and publish your post on the course website at least one day in advance by 7pm.

- **Online Book Review/Short Article (30%):** Over the course of several weeks, you will learn how to pitch and write for an online venue. For your draft pitch **(10%, due Week 5)**, you will submit a short abstract about a recent queer comic of your choosing, aimed at a specific online publication. You will accompany this pitch with three annotations of relevant articles that this venue has published. You will then draft your short piece **(10%, due Week 8)**, following the guidelines of your chosen venue. Lastly, you will revise according to the feedback and submit your piece both to the chosen venue and to me **(10%, due Week 11)**.
- **Seminar Paper (40%, due Week 15):** You will write a 15-20 page seminar paper on one of the assigned comics. You may design an alternate, equivalent assignment in consultation with me. All students will schedule a meeting with me to discuss your topic before spring break.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Thursday, January 9 (no class meeting)

- **No class on account of Modern Language Association (MLA) conference**
- Vivian Kleiman & Justin Hall, *No Straight Lines* documentary trailer, <http://nostraightlinesthefilm.com/>
- Justin Hall, "Editor's Note" and "Introduction," *No Straight Lines* (2013)
- Darieck Scott & Ramzi Fawaz, "Introduction: Queer about Comics," *American Literature* 90.2 (2018)
- Michelle Ann Abate, Karly Marie Grice, & Christine N. Stamper, "Introduction: "Suffering Sappho": Lesbian Content and Queer Female Characters in Comics," *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 22.4 (2018)
- Nicholas Sammond, "Meeting in the Archive: Comix and Collecting as Community," *Feminist Media Histories* 4.3 (2018)

WEEK 2

Thursday, January 16

- **Introduction Post due**
- **Sign-up for Digital Posts (in-class)**
- Robert Triptow, *Gay Comics* (1989), pp. 4-25
- Sina Shamsavari, "The History of Gay Male Comics in America from Before Stonewall to the 21st Century," *International Journal of Comic Art* 19.2 (2017)
- Sina Shamsavari, "Gay Ghetto Comics and the Alternative Gay Comics of Robert Kirby," *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture* 2.1 (2017)

WEEK 3**Thursday, January 23**

- Trina Robbins, “Sandy Comes Out” in *Wimmen’s Comix* #1 (1972)
- Mary Wings, *Come Out Comix* (1973)
- Roberta Gregory, “A Modern Romance” in *Wimmen’s Comix* #4 (1974)
- Roberta Gregory, *Dynamite Damsels* (1976)
- Margaret Galvan, “Feminism Underground: The Comics Rhetoric of Lee Marrs and Roberta Gregory,” *WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly* 43.3-4 (2015)
- Leah Misemer, “Serial Critique: The Counterpublic of *Wimmen’s Comix*,” *iNKS* 3.1 (2019)

WEEK 4**Thursday, January 30**

- *Gay Comix* (1980-1998), selected issues

WEEK 5**Thursday, February 6**

- **Online Book Review: Pitch due**
- Don Melia, ed., *Strip AIDS* (1987)
- Trina Robbins, Bill Sienkiewicz, Robert Triptow, eds., *Strip AIDS USA* (1988)

WEEK 6**Thursday, February 13**

- Ivan Velez, Jr., *Tales of the Closet* #1-8 (1987-1992)

WEEK 7**Thursday, February 20**

- Diane DiMassa, *Hothead Paisan* #1-21 (1991-1998)

WEEK 8**Thursday, February 27**

- **Online Book Review: Draft due**
- Jaime Cortez, *Sexile* (2004), http://transascity.org/files/history/Cortez_Jaime_-_Sexile.pdf

WEEK 9**Thursday, March 5 (no class meeting)**

- **No class on account of spring break**

WEEK 10**Thursday, March 12**

- Magdalene Visaggio & Eva Cabrera, et al., *Kim & Kim Volume 1* (2017)

WEEK 11**Thursday, March 19**

- **Online Book Review: Submission due**
- Tee Franklin & Jenn St. Onge, et al., *Bingo Love Volume 1* (2018)

WEEK 12

Thursday, March 26

- Maia Kobabe, *Gender Queer* (2019)

WEEK 13

Thursday, April 2 (no class meeting)

- No class on account of Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference
- Work on Seminar Paper

WEEK 14

Thursday, April 9

- Mariko Tamaki & Rosemary Valero-O'Connell, *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me* (2019)

WEEK 15

Thursday, April 16

- **Seminar Paper due**
- Archie Bongiovanni, *Grease Bats* (2019)